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## CLARA BARTON, HUMANITARIAN.

BY MRS. CORRA BACON-FOSTER.

(Read before the Society, December 18, 1917.)

It doubtless seems strange to many of you, long-time residents of Washington, that I, a comparatively new comer, should undertake to tell you of a lady so well known to you.

I saw Miss Clara Barton in Texas seventeen years ago and with many fellow sufferers in the storm at Galveston learned to admire and appreciate the frail little elderly lady, who with a firm hand and remarkable intelligence wielded so much power and accomplished so much for the benefit of our bewildered citizens.

The events of a certain March day two years ago surprised me and I sought an explanation. In my investigations I may have found some data that you have overlooked or forgotten. So in justice to the memory of Clara Barton and to you as custodians of Washington local history I bring some results. For Clara Barton was a citizen of Washington for a half century and who can deny that she honored her home?

First on the long roll of America's great women is Clara Barton. First in her ideals—first in her achievements. When Senator Hoar was once asked who in his opinion was the greatest living American, he unhesitatingly replied, "Clara Barton." Thinking he had not been understood the questioner repeated, "Who is the greatest American *man*?" Again the reply, "*Clara Barton*, where will you find the *man* to *equal her*?" In every field of her endeavor she was successful; the schools she taught for eighteen years always prospered; the difficult desk in the Patent Office was efficiently held; as a writer her diction was clear and comprehensive—sometimes eloquent; in diplomacy she could instruct statesmen; in oratory John B. Gough pronounced her remarkable; as winner and holder of affection none have ever surpassed her; on her service to humanity in war and in peace no one can place an estimate. In courage, intrepidity, and

COL. HIST. SOC., VOL. XXI, PL. XIV.



CLARA BARTON, AT THE TIME SHE ORGANIZED THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

patience, in skill in organization, she has seldom been equaled by man or woman in any country or in any age; hers was truly a most remarkable character. In America she ranks with Jeanne d'Arc in France, to whom the English are now placing a memorial in Westminster. When will Americans thus express the gratitude and reverence due their heroine, Clara Barton, the "Angel of the Battlefield" and the Founder of the American Red Cross?

Intellectual activity was the characteristic of the first half of the nineteenth century, peace and prosperity in the United States had permitted bright minds of the great middle class opportunity to turn from the strife for existence, which had followed the war for independence, to studies of nature, of science, and of psychology; in consequence, amazing discoveries, wonderful mechanical inventions, and spiritual investigations were changing the mode of life and of thought. In no section of the country was there more such development than in Worcester County, Massachusetts, where on the Christmas Day of 1821 Clara Barton was born.

She was the youngest of the family of Captain Stephen Barton, a man of middle age, who was descended from a founder of the colony. He had been a soldier under General Anthony Wayne in his campaign against the Indians in the northwest and was a leader in progressive thought in intellectual Oxford village; well-to-do, a Free Mason, a life-long Democrat. The little girl, bright and precocious, became the pet of the much older sisters and brothers, three of whom, educated school-teachers, proved themselves in her case worthy anticipators of Madame Montessori's cult. In the long winter evenings, nestled in her father's arms, she imbibed some knowledge of mili-



tary tactics from checkerboard campaigns, and the brother David took her out to the pasture and taught her to become a fearless horsewoman while developing sinew for the strenuous life of middle age. A serious accident befell this brother when Clara was eleven years old from the effect of which he was an invalid for two years; by his desire and the exigencies of the household she became his sole attendant, thus rendering her first service in the cause of humanity; this experience was also a preparation for later things.

She grew into a painfully bashful, sensitive girl, so much so as to cause her friends grave anxiety. Phrenology was one of the "isms" of the day and as a matter of routine was investigated by the Barton family. One of the exponents of the science, Mr. L. W. Fowler, was a guest in the house while giving a course of lectures in Oxford. His advice was sought as to a future course for her; "The sensitive nature will always remain," was his reply, "she will never assert herself for herself, she will suffer wrong first, but for others she will be perfectly fearless. Throw responsibility upon her, give her a school to teach." The accuracy of his estimate of her character the story of her life sustains, especially in the events of 1900-1904.

Without difficulty she secured the necessary certificate from the school trustees of the district in which her recently married sister had located, and at the early age of fifteen she took up a profession in which she achieved notable success. In controlling other minds she acquired self-control, although to the end of her long life she was timid and sensitive to a degree unless driven by a strong impulse. Her winning personality gained the hearts of her pupils, while firmness and diplomacy checked any insubordination. In the

intervals between three summer schools she attended the excellent academy at Oxford village, always an educational center; in fact she never ceased to be a student and investigator.

Her brothers' mills at North Oxford were the second in the country to introduce spindle and power looms; they employed many operatives who were deprived of school facilities—this was long before philanthropists had evolved a child-labor law. Not being successful in securing the location of a district school they erected a building and installed their young sister as mistress of the factory school, which she taught winter and summer for ten years. In the office of the mills, after school hours, under the tutelage of her capable brother Stephen, she mastered the intricacies of bookkeeping and became sole accountant, a discipline aptly recalled in later Red Cross years when an assistant complained: "No matter what happens those accounts *must* be kept up to date." Meanwhile this indefatigable young woman lived with her parents; and, knowing of New England customs of the day, we may assume that she bore her share of the household duties and then formed the frugal habits of a lifetime. Looking back it appears as if the practical mother had been the balance wheel in this family of brilliant intellects. Old letters contain reminiscences of the many frolics that enlivened this period where the Barton wit had full play, for Clara Barton was far from being a serious-minded person; her sense of humor and ready repartee made her always the life of any assembly of friends.

After the death of the mother in 1851 the father went to the home of his eldest son, the family home was closed and Clara decided to spend a year at the Clinton Liberal Institute in New York State for

senior study. In this college town she found a leisurely, scholarly society, very different from the keen business activity of the factory village. Friendships she there formed broadened her point of view and were lifelong. The principal of the Institute recognized her ability and won her gratitude by his encouragement and advice; an associate tutor, a literary aspirant, admired her and stimulated her ambition—this friendship with many episodes endured for years and was probably the great romance of her life; she also met there Miss Mary Norton, a literary star of note and friend of Horace Greeley, with whom an affectionate and intimate relation existed until the death of Miss Norton many years later. This year in college, with the succeeding season in the cultivated Norton family circle while teaching in Hightstown, N. J., was doubtless most important in the development of Clara Barton's character—although she was then over thirty—in softening the very practical ideals of New England life.

While teaching in Hightstown she learned of the deplorable lack of public schools in the neighboring Bordentown. A progressive trustee of the place interested her in the subject and she proffered to make an effort to establish a school that would succeed; if she should fail she would demand no salary for the first three months of service. Her offer was reluctantly accepted, a small room was secured for the experiment and she opened her term with an attendance of six notoriously bad boys of the town. Somehow she tamed them and attracted others until the small room could not accommodate the applicants. Here she met Miss Lydia Haskell, a kindred ambitious spirit with whom much of her future was associated.

Her success in the public school was so pronounced

that at the close of the year the little city decided to provide a reputable building. In the fall the school opened with six hundred pupils. There was much opposition by private institutions and when new textbooks were required there was open rebellion. This was long before the era of *free* textbooks, but Clara Barton solved the difficulty by securing a subscription of four hundred dollars for purchase of books for free distribution. The situation, however, was uncomfortable for her; although she had built up the school system, a man from abroad had been engaged as principal; he became jealous of her ability and popularity and annoyed her in many ways; angered by a particularly ungentlemanly act, she promptly resigned and left the place. Her many pupils always remained her devoted allies, with some of whom she corresponded for years. A few of her letters have been preserved and are treasured today as priceless mementos. In Bordentown no name is more honored than that of Clara Barton.

Having friends in Washington she came here in November, 1854. She soon secured copying from the Patent Office, where a rapid perfect round handwriting such as hers was in demand. In a letter of that time to Miss Haskell we read that she was copying at home 10,000 words daily, preparing the mechanical part of the annual report for the printer. The Commissioner of Patents at the time was Judge Charles Mason, of Iowa, long a resident of Washington. Attracted by the quality of her work he appointed her (in 1855) clerk in charge of a confidential desk at the salary of \$1,400 per annum. Thus she was the first woman to receive an appointment in governmental department service. The chief clerk of the office is quoted as saying, "She was the very best clerk ever

in this office." She became an intimate friend of the Commissioner's family; the daughter, Mrs. George C. Remey, now testifies to their esteem and affection for her. Meantime she was rising at four in the morning to prepare lessons in French.

Under the Buchanan administration, with another Commissioner, the woman from abolitionist Massachusetts was dropped. The ensuing two years Clara Barton spent in Worcester and Boston studying French, literature, and art. She wrote to a former pupil from Bordentown, then in Mobile, that she loved the South and would like to make her home among southerners; and asked if he would advise her if he found an opening for a teacher of experience, one who could teach French and painting and was considered an expert accountant; but in 1860 she was reinstated in the Patent Office.

The decade from 1851, when she left her native village home, to 1861, although coming somewhat late in her life, was the formative period of her character; she found herself, became conscious of her ability, conquered the painful sensitiveness, and finally refused to marry the persistent lover of years. All the patriotism inherited from her martial father was aroused during the exciting days following the election of President Lincoln; the apathy of her fellow clerks incensed her; she offered to do the work of two desks, to turn the pay of one to the family of a man who could serve his country; and finally when in April, 1861, the Sixth Massachusetts volunteers from her own county came limping into the city from the encounter at Baltimore she left her desk; her country had called her.

In the Treasury Department are on file the vouchers for pay signed by Miss Barton, the last dated July,

1865, showing that although absent from the office much of the time, her salary had continued. It has been said that a devoted friend, Mr. Edward Shaw, worked overtime at her desk in order to hold it for her. Letters from fellow clerks have been preserved that testify to their affection for her and in which they beg her to return to the office.

#### THE WAR OF 1861-1865.

With Clara Barton's record of service in the War between the States all are more or less familiar. In recalling it we should remember that during the first of the conflict there was no organized relief other than the regular medical staff of the army, with its supplies often far in the rear when most urgently needed at the front; men suffered and died for lack of attention. Later the great Sanitary and Christian Commissions did noble work on the field and in hospitals.

Until the winter of 1861 Clara Barton was active in the encampments and hospitals about Washington, distributing supplies sent her by friends in Worcester, New Jersey, and central New York State, and meeting and ministering to wounded men from Virginia battlefields; she was then summoned to her home in Massachusetts to care for her father in his last illness, returning to Washington in the spring of 1862.

All the summer came distressing reports of the dreadful suffering at the front from want of supplies and care. Putting aside considerations of convention and propriety, Clara Barton determined to go to the fields where her supplies were most needed. By persistent effort she secured a pass from Colonel Rucker, the Washington depot quartermaster, who always was her devoted friend and champion. With assistants—among them Mrs. Fales, wife of a Patent Office official,

also a worker for the soldiers during the war—she was on the field after the battle of Cedar Mountain in August, 1862. Her description of that experience is characteristic: “When our armies fought on Cedar Mountain I broke the shackles and went to the front.” She arrived after the battle and found much to do—“Five days and nights with three hours sleep, a narrow escape from capture, and some days of getting the wounded into hospitals at Washington. And if you chance to feel that the positions I occupied were rough and unseemly for a *woman*, I can only reply that they were rough and unseemly for *men*. But under all lay the life of the nation. I had inherited the rich blessings of health and strength of constitution—such as is seldom given to woman—and I felt some return was due from me and that I ought to be there.” She was again at Fairfax, September first, with its dreadful night watch among the wounded and dying in the hay-strewn open field and the succeeding three days before the retreat on Washington. Then, after ten days’ rest, with Rev. C. M. Welles and Lieutenant Fisk, she was given an army wagon and instructed to follow the army into Maryland with supplies. By an adroit night drive she succeeded in passing the army supply train and took her place immediately in the rear of the artillery; thus she was able to provide much needed surgical articles and food long before regular supplies reached the field hospitals at Antietam.

The value of her service there so impressed Colonel Rucker that in October he gave her a relief train of six army wagons with drivers trained by experience in the Peninsular campaign and an ambulance for her personal accommodation, with directions to accompany the Ninth Army Corps from Harper’s Ferry up the Valley of Virginia. Her pleasant way of subduing

these rough men, restive under the control of a slight woman, was amusing; they became her most devoted friends and servants; she meanwhile suffering from a most excruciating bone felon.

Early in December she was with General Burnside at Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg, and even crossed on the frail pontoon bridge into that city of carnage. No pen can describe the misery of those freezing days, when hers were the only relief stores available and many died in the snow uncared for, her headquarters merely an old army tent. After the defeat she returned to Washington to collect and prepare supplies for another campaign.

Her brother David had received the appointment of quartermaster at Hilton Head, off Charleston, S. C., where she joined him in April, 1863. General Leggett wrote: "There and at Morris Island the command was constantly under fire for eight months of weary siege; scorched by the sun, chilled by the waves, rocked by the tempest, buried in the shifting sands; men toiling day after day in the trenches with the angry fire of five forts hissing thro' the ranks every day of those weary months. But Clara Barton was there doing all in mortal power to assuage the miseries of the unfortunate soldiers." This long dreadful vigil left her blind, helpless, and ill for weeks; but she was again in Washington in 1864 arranging her supplies that had overflowed her warerooms. At this time, upon the recommendation of Medical Director McCormick, she received the appointment of "Superintendent of Nurses in the Army of the James" under General Butler, and took her station at the front. At the battle of Spottsylvania with her assistants she took her position near Fredericksburg.

One of Clara Barton's greatest war achievements,



measured by results, was her success in securing the authority to cut the red tape regulations that continued the congestion at Acquia Creek, where hundreds of wounded men were held waiting in ambulances and in the fields for transportation to Washington hospitals. No one was ever told how she secured a tug for the Capital, but she came and at night aroused the Chairman of the Senate Military Committee, who at once conferred with the War Department officials; they were incredulous of the recital of incapacity at the front, but the senator so stormed, threatening publicity, that in two hours the Quartermaster-General was en route for Acquia Creek, where he took charge and cleared the situation.

Clara Barton remained at the front until the end of the conflict, with occasional returns to Washington for supplies. Her nephew, Sam Barton, was in charge of her warerooms, which were located on Seventh Street near the Avenue.

#### *Official Orders.*

The following official orders and letters (which I copy from the originals) are significant in view of the fact that the compilers of the twenty-eight volumes of the "Official History of the War" did not mention the work of Clara Barton. While not associated with the great Sanitary and Christian Commissions, she at all times worked in harmony with them and exchanges of supplies were constantly being made. Her relief was independent and always first when needed.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON CITY, July 11, 1862.

*Sir;*

At the request of the Surgeon General I have to request that you give every facility to Miss Barton for the transportation

of supplies necessary for the comfort of the sick. I refer you to the accompanying letter.

Very respectfully,

R. C. WOOD. *A. S. Gen'l.*

Major D. H. Rucker, A. Q. M.  
Washington, D. C.

[Reverse]

OFFICE OF DEPOT QUARTERMASTER,

WASHINGTON, July 11, 1862.

Respectfully referred to General Wadsworth, with the request that permission be given to this lady and friend to pass to and from Acquia Creek on government transports at all times when she may wish to visit the sick and hospitals, etc. with such stores as she may wish to take for the comfort of the sick and wounded.

D. H. RUCKER, *Quartermaster and Col.*

[Also]

H'D QRS. MIL. DIV. OF VA.

WASHINGTON. D. C. July 11 '62.

The within mentioned lady, (Miss Barton) & friend have permission to pass to and from Fredericksburg by Gov't boat and railroad at all times to visit the sick and wounded & to take with her all such stores as she may wish to take for the sick, and to pass anywhere within the lines of the U. S. forces, (excepting to the Army of the Potomac) & to travel on any military R.R. or Govt. boat to such points as she may desire to visit and to take such stores as she may wish by such means of transportation.

By order of Brig. Gen'l Wadsworth,  
Mil. Gov. D. C.

T. E. ELLSWORTH, *Capt. & A. D. C.*

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SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE

July, 11, 1862.

Miss C. H. Barton has permission to go upon the sick transports in any direction—for the purpose of distributing comforts to the sick and wounded—and nursing them, always subject to the direction of the surgeon in charge.

WILLIAM A. HAMMOND  
*Surgeon General U. S. A.*

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN :

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

ARMY OF VIRGINIA.

No. 83.                      WASHINGTON, D. C. August 12, 1862.

Know ye, that the bearers, Miss Barton and two friends, have permission to pass within the lines of this Army for the purpose of supplying the sick and wounded. Transportation will be furnished by Govt. boat and rail.

By command of Major General Pope :  
R. JONES, *Asst. Inspector General.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.

March 27, 1863.

The Quarter Master, Col. Rucker, will issue transportation to Clara Barton from Washington to Port Royal, S. C. via New York. She is ordered to report at Port Royal as a nurse.

By order of the Secretary of War.  
P. H. WATSON,  
*Asst. Sec'y of War.*

Office of the Prov. Marine  
Dept of the South  
Morris Island, 11 July 1862  
Mrs Barton - Hospital Surgeon  
authorized by the Prov. of the  
U.S. Will receive all facilities  
within our lines & permitted to  
go to the front - All persons  
when called upon to render  
her facilities will do so to the  
extent of their ability  
By Command  
Major Genl D. H. Hillmore  
Charles F. Hall  
Lt Col & Prov. Marine

ONE OF CLARA BARTON'S PASSES.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 225 PENN AVE.

March 29, 1863.

DR VON ETTEN,  
Medical Director,  
U. S. Forces on St Helena Island,  
Port Royal, S. C.

*Dear Sir:* The bearer Miss Clara H. Barton visits the 10th Army Corps for the purpose of attending personally to the wants of wounded soldiers. She has rendered great service in all the great battles that have been fought in Virginia for the last six months. She acts under the direction of the Surgeon General and with the authority of the Secretary of War. The smoke of battle, the roar of artillery, and the shrieks of shot and shell do not deter her from administering to those who fall. She will explain all to you and I trust be able to do much good in the coming battle. Here she is highly respected and all bestow upon her much praise. If in your power to assist her in carrying out her plans, please do all that can be done and rest assured your kindness will be appreciated.

Very respectfully,

EDWARD V. PRESTON, *P. M. U. S. A.*

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OFFICE OF THE PROV. M. GEN'L

DEPT OF THE SOUTH

MORRIS ISLAND 11 July 1863

Miss Barton—Hospital Nurse authorized by the Prest of the U. S. will receive all facilities within our lines & permitted to go to the front—All persons when called upon to render her facilities will do so to the extent of their ability

By command

BRIG GENL Q A GILLMORE

JAMES F. HALL

*Lt. Col & Prov M Genl*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

FOLLY ISLAND, S. C. Nov. 9, 1863.

*My dear Miss Barton,*

Col. Elwell informed me that he thought you desired permission to visit Morris and Folly Islands. I will be very glad to have you do so. I send you herewith the necessary permit.

Very sincerely, Your obd. Ser.

Q. A. GILLMORE,

*Maj. General Commanding.*

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT VIRGINIA & NORTH CAROLINA.

NEAR POINT OF ROCKS.

June 23, 1864.

Miss Clara Barton the bearer is entrusted by the benevolent in Massachusetts with stores for the relief of the sick in this Department. Medical Directors, Surgeons, and other officers will afford her every aid and assistance in their power and freedom to pass wherever she may desire to go.

BENJ. F. BUTLER,

*Maj. General Commanding.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 11, 1864.

Pass Miss Barton and assistant to Fredericksburg to report to Surgeon Dalton for duty with wounded as volunteer nurse.

By order of the Secretary of War,

JOSEPH K. BARNES, *Acting Sur. General.*

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[Reverse]

Miss Barton and assistant will report to Surgeon Faxon in charge of 6th Army Corps hospitals for duty.

By order of P. B. Dalton, Surgeon U. S. V. & Chief Med. Officer.

J. M. KOLICK, *Asst. Surg. & Executive Officer.*

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC.  
OFFICE OF CHIEF QUARTER MASTER  
Dec. 2, 1862

The bearer, Miss Clara H. Barton, is authorized to pass on any Government Boat from Washington City to Acquia Creek and Belle Plain, to join the command of Genl. Sturgis in this army.

RUFUS INGALLS,  
*Lt. Col. A. D. C. and Chief Qr. Master.*

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HEADQUARTERS 2ND. DIV. 9TH ARMY CORPS.  
ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.  
Dec. 31, 1862.

*Guards and Patrols:* Pass the Bearer, Miss Barton, with male attendant and such luggage as she may have, on the cars and boat, from these Head-Quarters to Washington, D. C.

By order of Brig. Gen. Sturgis.

HENRY R. MIZELS,  
*Capt. and A. A. G.*

Approved by command of Maj. Gen. Sumner,  
J. E. MALLON,  
*Maj. & Provost Marshall, R. G. D.*

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In connection with the preceding it is interesting to read this letter from General Sturgis, written many years later while Governor of the National Soldiers' Home:

WASHINGTON, D. C. April 3, 1881.

*My dear friend;*

Many thanks for the photograph; it is very good as the phrase goes—it is a faithful *portrait*, but not a true *picture*. To produce the latter is beyond the photographer's art. A portrait of Napoleon as a Sunday school teacher, might be good as a *portrait*, but it could not be Napoleon, nor is this which is now before me, Clara Barton.

If the brave men who fell at Fredericksburg and upon scores of other bloody fields, could be brought to life again, they would fail to recognize their devoted friend thus surrounded by so many appointments of graceful ease and luxury. Ah! No—their picture of Clara Barton would be the picture of an angel of mercy, hovering over a field of carnage and slaughter; enveloped in the smoke of battle as in a cloud, and bringing succor and hope to the wounded, and tenderly performing the last sad rites to the honored Dead. This would be a *true* picture—this would be *history*, and this, in short—would be Clara Barton.

Nevertheless, I shall cherish this photograph as a treasure and shall give to it a conspicuous place in my collection, but away down in my heart I shall always retain the image which the dead soldier *would* have painted. . . .

I am, dear Miss Barton,

Very truly your friend,

S. D. STURGIS.

PORT ROYAL, April 8, 1863

MISS P. H. TERRY,

*My Dear Sister,*

Should Miss Barton go to the Expedition as she desires to do—and as I think should do—I have told her to find you and I hope it will be possible for her to stop with you on the *Delaware*. She is in the good work with you—having rendered great service to the wounded on many battlefields in Virginia. She has probably seen more carnage on the battlefield than any American woman—an angel of mercy to the suffering—and I am sure you will find in her an experienced fellow worker, and a congenial spirit of high order. I commit her to your kindness, as she has been committed to me by my friends in Washington—I am getting along as well as I can expect.

Your friend,

J. J. ELWELL



War Department  
Washington City D.C.  
March 27 1863

The Quartermaster, Col Rucker,  
will receive transportation to  
Clara H. Watson from Washington  
to Port Royal S.C. via New  
York. She is ordered to report  
at Port Royal as a nurse.  
By order of the Secretary of War  
J. H. Watson  
Assistant Secy

Recd at New York  
March 28 1863  
Clara H. Watson  
New York

ORDER FOR TRANSPORTATION TO PORT ROYAL, S. C.

HEADQUARTERS, HILTON HEAD, S. C.

April 8, 1863

Order: Permission is granted Miss Clara Barton to visit the Army in the neighborhood of Charleston S. C. and return at pleasure.

By command of Maj. Gen. D. Hunter  
JAMES F. HALL, *Lt. Col. & Prov. M. Genl.*

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SANITARY COMMISSION,

SOUTHERN DEPT.

BEAUFORT, Nov. 15, 1863.

MISS CLARA BARTON,

Hilton Head.

*My dear Miss Barton;* . . . Tomorrow we expect to load the brig assigned by Col. Elwell for our special use. Any stores which you may wish to transport can be taken upon her on Tuesday, which stores could lie upon her in the Inlet and be moved as you need to your tent. . . . I shall be at the "Head" once or twice and do myself the pleasure to call upon you—Etc. Yours,

M. M. MARSH, *Supt.*

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BEAUFORT, June 2, 1864.

*My dear Miss Barton,*

. . . Expect to see you Monday next. I wish to consult you upon the propriety of establishing a place at the "Head" where discharged soldiers and others could rendezvous for lodging and subsistence. Also to ask, if such a thing should be established, if you would not assume its general supervision, Etc.

Yours,

M. M. MARSH, *Supt.*

SEARCH FOR MISSING SOLDIERS.

On the return of peace Clara Barton was besieged with letters from every section of the country begging her to seek some scrap of information concerning friends who had simply disappeared, leaving no record. By the advice of President Lincoln she located at Annapolis, the entrepôt for exchanged and returned prisoners, to compile a list of those who returned, or were lost, for publication.

To the friends of missing persons; Miss Clara Barton has kindly offered to search for the missing prisoners of war. Please address her at Annapolis, Maryland, giving name, regiment, and company of any missing prisoner.

A. LINCOLN.

This brought the heartbroken correspondence of the friends of all missing soldiers to her and placed on the records of the government the names of 20,000 men who otherwise had no record of death, and today their descendants enjoy the proud heritage of an ancestor who died honorably in the service of his country and not under the possible suspicion of being a deserter. Later she established a "Bureau of Correspondence for Friends of Paroled Prisoners" in Washington with a force of twelve clerks, and issued through the press a call for information, and posted lists of missing men in post offices. The books and letters of this bureau have been preserved as Clara Barton filed them away. The perfection and accuracy of her system elicit admiration and commendation from the most modern of efficiency experts. The pathos of these letters of inquiry is pitiful; none ever remained unanswered, many received precious information. When she had expended \$7,000 her private funds were exhausted and she appealed to Congress for the means to continue

the work. Without a dissenting voice \$15,000 was appropriated. The report of the Senate Committee follows:

39th Congress  
1st Session

Senate { Rep. Com.  
          { No. 26

In the Senate of the United States.

March 2, 1866.

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia, to whom was referred the memorial of Miss Clara Barton, praying aid to carry out a plan she has originated for obtaining information of missing soldiers, and communicating the same to their relatives, having had the subject under consideration, beg respectfully to report:

That on the arrival at Annapolis of large numbers of paroled and exchanged prisoners of war, in the winter of 1864-5, she received letters of inquiry from all parts of the country, desiring information of soldiers supposed to have been captured. She then advertised, with the entire approval of President Lincoln, that she would receive and answer such letters from Annapolis; and by publication of the names of missing soldiers and personal inquiry among the prisoners, she received information of more than one thousand of the fifteen hundred soldiers whose names were thus published, and which she communicated without delay to their anxious relatives.

She subsequently found it necessary on account of the largely increased number of inquiries, to extend her labors and incur additional expense, by the employment of clerks, and the publication of additional lists of missing men, 20,000 of which were distributed through the country, including one copy to each post office in the loyal states.

The system which she has originated has thus far proved a complete success, but she has been compelled to abandon the project solely for lack of means to carry it on; and in order to enable her to carry it to completion, the committee respectfully recommend the passage of the accompanying joint reso-

lution appropriating \$15,000 to reimburse her for expense already incurred, and to aid her in completing her work. The only aid she has heretofore received has been the printing of the rolls by the public printer, which the joint resolution recommends shall be continued.

She has in many instances obtained information of soldiers who were reported as "deserters," while they were languishing in southern prisons, and their families were mourning for them as disgraced, and her report has carried joy to many a household, whose members, while they may have had *presumptive* evidence of the capture or death of the absent one, only received positive evidence through her instrumentality. Her observation warrants her in stating that, if the desired aid be granted, information can be obtained of probably four-fifths of those whose fate will otherwise never be ascertained.

The committee therefore respectfully recommend the passage of the accompanying resolution. (S. No. 36.)

The debate in the Senate (Congressional Globe, March 5, 1866, page 184) is especially interesting in view of later events.

During this period, with the Dorrance Atwater list of deaths, she accompanied the army agent detailed to locate and mark the graves in establishing the first National Cemetery at Andersonville, Ga., where she raised the flag after devoting months to this most grewsome task. (*Harper's Weekly* of October 7, 1865, describes this and has a full-page illustration.)

An insistent demand was made for Clara Barton on the then most popular lecture platform, to which, after much hesitation and on the advice of John B. Gough, she yielded and told of her wartime experiences to enthusiastic audiences all over the North, commencing at Hightstown, N. J. It is noteworthy, in view of a later investigation of her financial standing, that these lectures netted her over \$5,000. She was also receiving a steady income from contributions to the press.

The long-continued strain of eight years proved too great for even her remarkable vigor, and one night she stood before a brilliant audience voiceless. A severe prostration ensued. A year later she went to Europe for the rest she could not secure in America. She had friends in Switzerland to whom she went. Her name and service were well known abroad and she was soon honored by a visit from the "International Committee of the Red Cross," an organization of which she had previously known little. Their inquiry was, "Why should the great United States government refuse to give its allegiance to this humanitarian Convention?" She, of course, could not reply. Nor did she then know that a former minister to Switzerland and the eminent Dr. Henry Bellows of the Sanitary Commission had in vain urged upon our government the adoption of this treaty in 1864 and again in 1868.

#### FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

July 15, 1870, France declared war upon Prussia. A letter from Clara Barton, written in Berne on the twenty-first, so ably describes the situation that in honor to her intelligence it should be better known:

It is scarcely possible to conceive of anything more precipitous than the business of this little week of time, which has thrown the great nations into the attitude of war and put to the test of decision the courts or people of every country in Europe. A week ago she thought herself at peace. True she had heard a day or two before of a few hasty words between France and Prussia, but no one deemed it to mean more than words until the wires of the 15th flashed Napoleon's declaration of war. All Europe stood aghast. What did it mean? What was it all about? No one could believe it meant war in reality, and the nations held their breath. Even the Prussian press said it "could not be" it was *zu dumm*. But the reader

of history has yet to learn that nothing can be "too foolish," and no pretext too slight, where personal interest, royal dignity, ambition, or pride are injured or threatened. But in which of these, in the present instance, lies the tenderest nerve, it is difficult, at this early moment of confusion and consternation, to decide.

Spain, which appears to have given, most innocently, the first provocation, holds no place in the quarrel, and has less to say and do about it than any other country. Her crime consists in that her poor crown goes a begging, and she offered it to one, and another, until at length the young German Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern, having neither a crown nor the prospect of one, accepted it. But when France, anxious to preserve the national balance of power, and fearing to see her rival, and old enemy, Germany, ruling on two sides, holding the keys to both the Baltic and Mediterranean objected, he declined it. But when for still further security, France insisted upon demanding of the King of Prussia that in case of a pretender, neither the Prince of Hohenzollern nor any other subject of his, should ever accept, the King refused to confer with the messenger. This insults the dignity of France, and she replies with one word—"War," and her populace, wild with enthusiasm, shouts—"Vive la guerre." The decision passes over to Prussia. The old King listens in profound silence while Bismarck reads to him the declaration, and starts with visible astonishment at the passage in M. Ollivier's statement, in which he says that France accepts the war and throws upon Prussia the responsibility. When all is finished, he turns to his son, the Prince Royal, embraces him tenderly, steps a little to one side, and after a moment's hesitation, replies for Prussia in scarce more words than Napoleon has for France; "War. Prepare for War." And thus it is commenced.

It were long to tell, and will be the work of later days to gather up and report, the various opinions and actions of the surrounding nations of Europe. To-day it is enough to know that all France and Prussia with both northern and southern Germany, are armed and marching to the Rhine; That at any moment we may hear that her blue waters are purpled with

the flowing tide of human life; that the flying wheels of artillery are plowing her golden fields, already bending low for the harvest, and the crushing hoof of cavalry trampling out her unripened vintage.

It may however, be interesting, or at least amusing, some time after this, if the war continues, when the nations shall have settled themselves, to refer to these first impressions and decisions, before policy, strategy, or power have wholly entered into the warp and woof of what may yet become a vast political web, enveloping the entire continent of Europe, and with this view I gather a few of the most important.

We are assured that nothing could exceed the outburst of patriotic enthusiasm manifested by the French people at the moment of the declaration, and the troops were with difficulty restrained. "To the Rhine, to the Rhine." rang out on every side. This is balanced by an equal enthusiasm, perhaps a trifle more calm, on the part of the Prussians, the business men of Dresden immediately offering a prize to him who should first capture a French cannon. Baden, Wurtemberg, and Bavaria at once proffer money and troops. Hanover was a little slow to come in at first, and partly turned to France, but overpowered by the stream of public opinion, she wheels into line. Netherlands takes a decided stand and maintains an armed neutrality under the Prince of Orange. Italy attempted some demonstration in favor of Prussia and against Rome, but this was immediately put down, and the people gave their verdict as follows: "We shall neither French nor Prussians be, but Italians." Poor Italy has nothing to spare for her neighbors' quarrels; she will need all her military power for the arrest of her own revolutionary element. Austria at once announced her neutrality, and the Emperor so wrote Napoleon with his own hand. Denmark, like the Netherlands, hesitated. She remembers bitterly the loss of Schleswig-Holstein by the Prussian aggression and naturally turns away. There is exultation in the thought of a blockade of the Baltic at such a moment for Prussia. Revenge is sweet; but this endangers amicable relations with England, Russia, and North America, and perhaps she cannot afford to indulge her resentment, how-



ever gratifying it might be. So, *via* Hamburg, at last comes rumor of her declaration of neutrality. The intelligence from Russia is vague and uncertain. England attempted to act the mediator, but failed, and announces a strict neutrality, although she had previously declared her sympathies to be with Prussia. If one be not mistaken, Napoleon will need patience, faith, and a good appetite to relish the neutral dish England will serve up for him under these conditions. Her style of neutrality is something wonderful. . . . And last comes little Switzerland, bright as a diamond in her rough mountain setting, proclaiming a neutrality which she means; with no policy but truth, no strategy but honesty, no diplomacy in this matter but to preserve inviolate and at all hazards her own national independence and God-given liberty. Hers is an armed neutrality in which one has faith. Down all her mountain sides and through all her valleys and over her fields, come one, and two, and three, her sturdy brown cheeked mountain farmers in their neat uniforms of blue, with knapsack and cartridge box, grasping the ready musket with hands long calloused by the plow, the sickle, and the scythe. During the twenty-four hours since the declaration of war, there has been pouring across her green peaceful bosom, this strange, steady stream of soldier-life, till one fancies the fiery torch of Duncraggan must have been sped over the hills. Forty thousand troops to-day line her borders; the entire length of her frontiers from Basle to Lake Lemman and the Boden-See glistens with bayonets and darkens with men. Switzerland means nothing but honest neutrality and the preservation of her liberties at any cost, and when she tells you that she needs help, you may believe it and know that she deserves it.

Princess Luise, Grand Duchess of Baden, only daughter of King William of Prussia, came into the life of Clara Barton at this time in a personal visit to her; and one of the dearest and sweetest friendships of her long, eventful life was then formed, one that

endured without a break to the end. This royal lady came to urge her to go to Karlsruhe to counsel and assist in directing Red Cross work for relief. Although still an invalid she consented; she served on several battle-fields, including Wörth and Gravelotte, and entered Strassburg immediately after the surrender to find a scene of devastation and misery rarely equalled. In her own practical way, to become so familiar in America, with the earnest coöperation of the Grand Duchess of Baden, she procured materials for clothing, cutters, and teachers, secured a large room for work and invited women to come and make clothing for themselves and others and also earn a moderate pay therefor. For eight months fifteen hundred finished garments were turned out weekly. She also organized relief work at Metz, Montbelard, and Belfort. Most touching accounts have been preserved of the gratitude of these suffering people who had been in no way responsible for their destitute condition. Throughout the war she served as agent of the International Committee of the Red Cross; her brassard, stamped with its official seal, has been carefully preserved.

After the fall of the Paris Commune, May, 1871, Clara Barton went to that distressed city with the International Red Cross relief workers with supplies, including garments that had been made at Strassburg. She also distributed in France funds from the French Relief committees of Boston. Late in the winter she went to Karlsruhe, becoming there a member of the "palace set," an intimate companion of the Grand Duchess of Baden. The following summer she made an extended tour with friends in Italy. Her health again failing, she spent a year of illness in London, returning to America late in 1873. Then ensued three

years of extreme prostration. In 1876 she had recovered sufficient strength to reach the noted sanitarium at Dansville, N. Y., where she established and maintained a home for ten years and where her health was gradually restored.

Owing to her long-continued illness, she had been delayed in preparing and submitting itemized reports to the French Relief committees of Boston until May, 1876, from one of which she received the following reply:

60 STATE ST. BOSTON

July 1st, 1876

*Dear Miss Barton,*

You will wonder at my long silence, but owing to the absence of the gentlemen of the Committee under whom I act, I have only been able to obtain their signatures to-day. The money in the hands of Messrs Brown Bros. & Co., including interest on bonds, to May 1st is \$4521 of which one quarter (or \$1130) belongs to Mr Jackson's fund. He will write to you about this. The remainder, \$3390, belongs to my fund. Of this I am directed to pay \$150 to distressed families from Alsace now in Boston. The balance, (or \$3240) to pay to the Massachusetts General Hospital in trust, to pay all income arising from this money to you during your life, afterwards to become the property of the Hospital.

In making this arrangement the Committee desire to express their high appreciation of your intelligence and self sacrifice in distributing the funds placed in your hands, and the great sympathy with you, in your long and painful illness, caused partly by the work which you did in their behalf. They recognise the great accuracy of your accounts, the large number of vouchers collected by much labor, and the scrupulous care with which you have guarded the money entrusted to you. They wish you good health and a long life.

I need not tell you, dear Miss Barton, how cordially I join in

all good wishes for your health and happiness. May the Hospital pay your annuity till the next Centennial.

Sincerely Yours,

EDMUND DWIGHT.

#### EARLY HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS.

During the long and trying illness one thought had oppressed her, why was it that her own beloved country should be the only one to fail to recognize the merit of the Geneva Convention of the Red Cross? Why had it been that two distinguished men failed to interest our government? Could she hope to succeed in the effort she had promised to make? With returning strength she commenced writing Red Cross articles for the press for the creation of a public sentiment. In reply to an appeal for assistance and counsel, Dr. Bellows advised her to abandon the project as hopeless. But she was not to be discouraged and in 1877, as the appointed agent of the "International Committee of Geneva," she presented to President Hayes a letter from President Moynier of the Committee asking that our government accept the "Articles of the Convention of Geneva." She was most politely received. The letter was referred to Secretary of State Evarts, who in turn referred it to the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Frederick Seward, who had pigeon-holed the former appeals—he filed this carefully with them. As no influential member of Congress could be interested in the almost unknown "Red Cross," the case indeed seemed hopeless, but she resolved to wait for another administration before acknowledging defeat. At this time she associated with herself her old-time friend Mary Norton, Mrs. Fidelia Taylor, and Consul-General Hitz, Switzerland's representative to the United States, as a committee or society of the Red Cross.

This committee devoted its activities to bringing to the public attention the subject of the Red Cross and to creating a sentiment in favor of a treaty. The members were assisted by able pens of other interested individuals. The press of that day bears ample testimony to their industry and ability. In 1878 a small pamphlet, "The Red Cross of the Geneva Convention," was widely circulated. This educational work was continued with unflagging zeal until the administration of Mr. Hayes was succeeded by that of Mr. Garfield, who with his brilliant Secretary of State, Mr. Blaine, cordially endorsed the movement.

The original small committee was reorganized on May 21, 1881, and was incorporated in July, 1881, in the District of Columbia as "The Association of the Red Cross," with the same object and scope, to secure the adhesion of our government to the "Convention of Geneva." The constitution of the society was carefully drawn by Judge William Lawrence and signed by about fifty prominent individuals.<sup>1</sup> President Garfield nominated Clara Barton for its president, but his tragic death prevented official action, and it remained for President Arthur to recommend the treaty in his

<sup>1</sup> The signers of the Constitution were: Clara Barton, William Lawrence, Mrs. Charles H. Upton, Edward W. Whitaker, L. A. Martha Canfield, Joseph E. Holmes, Mrs. M. F. Walling, Walter P. Phillips, Mrs. Fidelia H. Taylor, William F. Sliney, Emily Thornton Charles, William M. Ferguson, R. E. Throckmorton, F. A. Prescott, Mary Stacy Withington, Richard J. Hinton, A. M. Smith, Lizzie B. Walling, Judson S. Brown, John Hitz, J. E. F. Gould, S. W. Bogan, C. H. H. Cottrell, William W. Hibbard, A. J. Solomons, George Kennan, Alexander Y. P. Garnett, Rush R. Shippen, Sarah H. Hatch, R. D. Mussey, Mary Willard, Delphine P. Baker, Mrs. William W. Hibbard, George B. Loring, Emiline R. W. Kennan, Q. A. Bland, M. Cora Bland, R. N. Tilton, Imogene Robinson Morrell, E. N. Throckmorton, Mrs. Lillian L. Walker, S. E. Barton, F. C. Phillips, W. J. Curtis, P. V. De Graw, E. L. De Graw, Olive Risley Seward, F. H. Trusdell, Albert C. Phillips, F. B. Taylor, and Helen M. Boynton.

*The American Association of the Red Cross.*

*Washington D.C. May 21. 1881.*

*Clara Barton*

*William Lawrence*

*Mrs. Chas. H. Lupton.*

*Edward W. Whitaker.*

*J. A. Martha Canfield.*

*Joseph E. Holmes*

*Mrs. M. F. Walling.*

*Walter P. Phillips*

*Mrs. F. B. Taylor.*

*Wm. F. Lincoln*

*Emily Thornton Charles*

*Wm. M. Ferguson*

*P. C. Brockmorton*

*J. A. Prescott*

*Mary Stacy Washington*

*Richard J. Hintons*

*A. Dr. Smith*

*Lizzie B. Walling.*

inaugural. It was accepted and signed by him March 1, 1882, Congress generously providing \$1,000 for printing a "History of the Red Cross." The sentiment had grown in four years. The letter-head of the "Association" read:

The American Association of the Red Cross organized under the Treaty of Geneva for the Relief of Sufferings of War, Pestilence, Famine, Fires, Floods, and other Great National Calamities.

Chester A. Arthur, President Board of Consultation.

Executive Officers;

Clara Barton, President.

Walter P. Phillips, General Secretary.

George Kennan, Treasurer.

Trustees;

Charles Folger, Robert T. Lincoln, George B. Loring.

Upon the assurance that our government would take confirmatory action, local societies were organized in Dansville, Rochester, and Syracuse just in time to afford Red Cross relief to sufferers from forest fires in Michigan. It is interesting to note the name of Susan B. Anthony as an incorporator of the society at Rochester; she and Clara Barton were then and to the last, intimate and confidential friends; Clara Barton was an active suffragist.

The "Association of the Red Cross" worked under its District of Columbia charter for ten years, but a federal charter was desired in order to protect the insignia and to give the society the power and standing it should have in the nation. Every possible effort was made to secure this legislation from Congress. Many weary days Clara Barton and others spent at the Capitol interviewing indifferent members. Sev-

eral times success was almost within grasp, only to fail in the most unexpected and exasperating manner. In 1893 the "Association" was re-incorporated in the District as the "American National Red Cross" with a somewhat broader scope. From 1892 to 1895, inclusive, the old mansion at the corner of Seventeenth and F Streets, now the Depot Quartermaster's Office, which Miss Barton rented and renovated at her own expense, was Red Cross headquarters.

In the seventeen years from 1881 to 1898 relief was taken to fifteen fields of disaster, three in foreign lands. Approximately one million dollars in money and supplies were distributed at a total expense of less than two per cent. In America this relief was distributed through local committees, sometimes under the personal supervision of Clara Barton, president, and her able field agent, Dr. J. B. Hubbell, to whom honor is due for self-abnegation and devoted service to the cause of humanity. Each year a full and complete financial report was made at the annual meeting of the society, as required by its constitution. Accurate accounts were kept of all receipts and expenditures; in the cases of extended fields these accounts were audited by experts. Insinuations of laxity in this accounting, so widely circulated that some even of Miss Barton's staunchest friends have thought it wise to quote extenuating circumstances, are proven by late investigation to have been unfounded on fact. No donor to or recipient of Red Cross relief ever criticized Clara Barton's bookkeeping. The dominating motive in this relief work was expedition. In all the appeals for assistance therefore the call was for supplies to be made immediately available rather than for funds to purchase these supplies. No salaries were paid to this old Red Cross force except to a few temporarily em-



ployed in field service or as secretaries to the president in times of pressure of work. The expense of the headquarters was always borne by Clara Barton, in fact she maintained the Red Cross for twenty-three years, the United States alone of all the nations having failed to establish a fund for the maintenance of its Red Cross. Dues were not collected from members of the central committee until 1900.

In August, 1881, the citizens of Dansville, N. Y., organized the first Red Cross auxiliary society, which was followed in a few weeks by similar action in Rochester and Syracuse. Scarcely was the first completed when a call from Michigan touched every humane impulse; forest fires had swept over miles of territory, hundreds of people had been made homeless and were suffering. Money and supplies were quickly collected and sent to the relief of stricken refugees through Mr. M. J. Bunnell and Dr. J. B. Hubbell. This prompt action was an object lesson of the value of organization.

About 1884, yielding to the solicitation of General, then Governor, Benjamin F. Butler, Clara Barton took charge of the "Woman's Reformatory" at Sherburn, Massachusetts, for one year. She made her own bond, depositing \$10,000 in railway securities. As always, she succeeded in making an unusual record by winning the hearts and confidence of the unfortunate inmates and by saving the State much money.

The first great work of the Red Cross after its incorporation was during the inundations of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys in 1882, 1883, and 1884, when in specially chartered steamboats Clara Barton and her volunteer assistants supplemented the relief provided by Congress by distributing approximately \$175,000 in supplies.

The expedition had barely returned from the west when Secretary of State Frelinghuysen designated Clara Barton to represent this country at the International Conference of the Red Cross to be held at Geneva in September, 1884. At this Conference, she, the only woman among the titled and illustrious representatives of thirty-two nations, received an ovation.<sup>1</sup> It is said she bore herself with modest and simple dignity. From the official proceedings of this Conference we learn that the discussion of the resolution "That the Red Cross societies in time of peace engage in humanitarian relief work analogous to the duties devolving upon them in periods of war," was principally a recital of the American Red Cross work in fields of national disasters, and that immediately after its adoption Colonel Tosi of Italy proposed the following resolution: "That this Conference declares that in obtaining the accession of the United States of America to the Convention of Geneva Miss Clara Barton has well merited the gratitude of the world," which was passed by acclamation.

In 1887 she was designated a delegate to the Conference at Karlsruhe, this time by President Cleveland. There she was the special guest of the Grand Duchess of Baden and had another opportunity to meet the old Emperor of Germany, who summoned her to Baden-Baden for the interview. He favored her with a long and private audience. He inquired about the Germans in America, hoped they were proving good citizens, and in parting gave her his hand, saying: "It is probably the last time. Good-bye." On a previous occasion he had bestowed upon her the Iron Cross of Merit in recognition of her relief service in the Franco-Prussian War.

<sup>1</sup> Berne (Switzerland) *Bundesblatt*, Sept. 4, 1884.

JOHNSTOWN FLOOD RELIEF.

In May, 1889, Johnstown in Pennsylvania was swept away by an avalanche of water released by the breaking of a dam in the mountains. Clara Barton with a corps of experienced volunteers arrived on the first train from the east and reported for service to the astonished militia general in command, who was non-plussed as to what he could do to make so great a lady comfortable. She was not long in convincing him she could care for herself and relieve him of many perplexities during the five months of her stay. Within a week carloads of lumber were arriving consigned to "Clara Barton" that went into barracks to shelter the homeless inhabitants and a warehouse for incoming supplies of food and clothing. In the stress of immediate need the force worked day and night assisting a committee of citizens. Twenty-five thousand persons were recipients of Red Cross assistance. At the close of the season she turned over to a society, organized for the purpose of continuing the work, all stores, including buildings, and all papers and duplicate accounts of relief work, with the services of two clerks as long as needed. On this field a working force of fifty men and women had been employed, some being paid for their services. A peculiar circumstance caused some unjust criticism. When the temporary buildings had to be razed, the merchants of the city protested against the sale or gift of the materials to citizens of Johnstown—the Flood Commission having distributed \$2,378,000 pro rata among them—yet the removal of some of the lumber to Washington brought criticism from persons who did not know the facts. Lots in Kalorama in this city were purchased on which it was proposed to build a Red Cross warehouse with these materials, but the gift to Clara Barton person-

ally of a house complete for occupancy, with large grounds, by the National Chautauqua Association at Glen Echo, Maryland, caused the abandonment of this project. In the report of the Johnstown Finance Committee occurs this statement:

In this matter of sheltering the people, as in others of like importance, Miss Clara Barton, president of the Red Cross Association, was most helpful. At a time when there was a doubt if the Flood Commission could furnish houses of suitable character and with the requisite promptness, she offered to assume charge, and she erected with funds of the association, three large apartment houses which afforded comfortable lodgings for many houseless people. She was among the first to arrive on the scene of calamity bringing with her Dr. Hubbell, the field officer of the Red Cross Association, and a staff of skilled assistants. She made her own organization for relief work in every form, disposing of the large resources under her control with such wisdom and tenderness that the charity of the Red Cross had no sting and its recipients are not Miss Barton's dependents, but her friends. She was also the last of the ministering spirits to leave the scene of her labors, and she left her apartment houses for use during the winter and turned over her warehouse with its store of furniture, bedding, and clothing and a well equipped infirmary, to the Union Benevolent Association of the Conemaugh Valley, the organization of which she advised and helped to form; and its lady visitors have so well performed their work that the dreaded winter has no terrors, mendicancy has been repressed, and not a single case of unrelieved suffering is known to have occurred in all the flooded district.

From an editorial in the *Johnstown Tribune* of November 1, 1889, reprinted in an editorial of the same paper on July 25, 1916, we quote:

How shall we thank Miss Barton and the Red Cross for the help they have given us? It cannot be done; and if it could, Miss Barton does not want our thanks. She has simply done

her duty as she saw it and received her pay—the consciousness of a duty performed to the best of her ability. To see us upon our feet, struggling forward, helping ourselves, caring for the sick and impoverished—that is enough for Miss Barton. Her idea has been fully worked out, all her plans are accomplished. What more could such a woman wish?

We cannot thank Miss Barton in words. Hunt the dictionaries of all the languages and you will not find the signs to express our appreciation of her and her work. Try to describe the sunshine. Try to describe the starlight. Words fail, and in dumbness and silence we bow to the idea which brought her here. God and humanity. Never were they more closely linked than in stricken Johnstown. . . . Picture the sunlight or the starlight and then try to say good-bye to Miss Barton. As well try to escape from your self by running to the mountains. "I go, but I return" is as true of her as of Him who said it. There is really no parting. She is with us, she will be with us always—in the spirit of her work even after she has passed away.

But we can say God bless you, and we do say it, Miss Barton, from the bottom of our hearts, one and all.

While organizing the relief for the Russian famine in 1892 Clara Barton received the following letter from Johnstown:

. . . Herewith please find enclosed N Y Dfts aggregating Fifteen Hundred Dollars contributed by citizens of Johnstown and vicinity to the Russian Relief Fund and directed to be forwarded and distributed through the agency of the Red Cross Association.

Subscriptions are still being received and a supplemental remittance to you will be made later.

It is hoped that the relief for the starving peasantry of Russia may be as prompt and efficient as was furnished by a most generous public to our Johnstown people in the year 1889 and its distribution be as fair and just.

Trusting success may attend the efforts of those in charge,

I remain, respectfully

B. S. YEAGLEY, *Acting Mayor.*

## RUSSIAN FAMINE RELIEF.

The call for relief for famishing Russians followed in 1891. Iowa and the west responded nobly with many carloads of corn, for which the Order of Elks and others furnished the funds for the ocean transportation. Most of the business of this movement was transacted through the Red Cross at the headquarters in Washington. To Dr. Hubbell, already in Europe as delegate to the International Conference at Rome from the United States, was given the oversight of the receipt of shipments and distribution; he coöperated with the Russian Red Cross and with the advice of Count Tolstoy, Count Brobinskoy, and others. America's contributions supplemented the Russian imperial relief by an amount of food to supply seven hundred thousand people for one month.

Mr. B. F. Tillinghast, for years editor of the *Davenport Gazette* and secretary of the Iowa Relief Committee, who made a full report at the time, has lately supplemented it in a letter, dated October 30, 1916, from which I quote:

. . . I would not detract in the smallest way from the glorious records made by many American women, all of them deserving of very high honors and lasting gratitude; but in my opinion Clara Barton stands out most luminously for the many years she served humanity; for the great number and variety of her activities; for the zeal, devotion and self sacrifice that marked her efforts; for the actual results she attained. Those closest to her, those among whom she administered relief, those who were witnesses to her fearlessness and singleness of purpose are her most unwavering and grateful upholders. . . .

My personal acquaintance with Miss Barton extended through some twenty years. But for a longer period I did all I could to assist in raising funds for relief work in which she

was engaged. At her request I went to Beaufort, South Carolina, at the time of the destructive tidal wave, and saw organized charity at its best. The store houses were full of goods—clothing, seeds, implements, and provisions—and from what I saw during two weeks I know that every dollar was made to do its utmost, the dominant object being to help the sufferers to help themselves. The expenses at Red Cross headquarters, and all through the work, were kept down to the minimum, the surroundings of Miss Barton and her staff being the most common place. How a woman could toil as she did, all day and much of the night, I do not know. Hers was the encouraging force that stimulated her helpers at most discouraging times.

For several months in 1892, by appointment of Governor Boies of Iowa, I acted as Secretary of the Russian Famine Relief Committee of that state. Miss Barton was consulted and strongly advised that the contributions, if in money, be converted into home-grown grain. This was because the railroads offered free transportation to the Atlantic seaboard, a service that represented many thousand dollars; and also because foodstuffs were more needed in the famine districts than money. The aggregate contributions were assembled in New York, stored in warehouses, and placed aboard the steamship. . . . I was designated by the Iowa committee to receive shipments and supervise loading in New York and while so employed met Miss Barton frequently. Her counsel was sought, because it was businesslike. She stated that she wished to see Iowa's contributions go intact, and in order that this might be done she deposited in the Chemical National Bank a check drawn on Riggs & Co. of Washington for an amount estimated to be ample to cover expenses. My recollection is that this deposit was \$20,000, but this and the checks against it are on record.

In the spring of 1902 President Roosevelt named a commission of five to represent the American branch at the Sixth Conference of the International Red Cross to be held in St. Petersburg. Miss Barton headed the delegates, I acted as secretary and was with her at St. Petersburg. I was deeply

impressed, at her then advanced age, by Miss Barton's clearness of mind, her ready memory, and her passion for effective work. No other delegate at the Conference, twenty-six nations being represented, was shown as much deference, not only by her associates, but by the Dowager Empress, the Czar, and the Czarina. The decoration of the Order of the Red Cross was conferred upon her by the Czar at that time.

Miss Barton's habits and manners were those of marked simplicity. Her economy in all things but time, nervous, and physical force, was more than frugal, as this was many times in evidence. . . . My faith in her sincerity, unselfishness, fidelity to every trust, and strict probity can never be shaken. As for her unequalled achievements, they cannot be called in question.

The Russian Ambassador, Mr. Boris Bakhmetieff, during his visit to Boston August, 1917, on learning of the reception tendered by the G. A. R. and women of the Relief Corps to the old army nurses, requested permission to attend. In his address to the nurses he made a touching allusion to the veneration in which Russians of every class hold the name of Clara Barton.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA TIDAL WAVE:

Probably the greatest work accomplished by the American Red Cross was the relief taken to the inhabitants of the islands off the coast of South Carolina after the tidal wave of 1893. The best account of this that I have found was given by Clara Barton in her report published in 1894:

It cannot be necessary to repeat at this late day that I was asked by your Governor Mr. Tillman to accept the charge of the relief of the sufferers of the Sea Islands, of whom it was said there were thirty thousand who would need aid until they could raise something to subsist upon, themselves. This was accepted with great hesitation, and only in view of the fact that no other body of persons in all the land appeared to assume



the responsibility, and with the cordial, unselfish, and generous support of the advisory committees of Charleston and Beaufort, to whom our earnest thanks are due, the work has been carried on to a successful conclusion. It later developed that an equal number of persons, both white and colored, residing on the seagirt coast of the state, now known as the "mainland," were nearly as destitute as the islanders, and many of them equally storm swept. Finding these people appealing to us, and well knowing that, in the depressed financial condition of the entire United States, we could not safely take on this double charge, we memorialized the South Carolina Legislature in November; the people, also under our advice, petitioned for a little aid to get them through the winter. The Governor also recommended the suggestion. For some reason which we never knew, no response was given. We never questioned this, but redoubled our exertions to meet the wants as they came by single rations issued upon application, until our books show an issue up to June 1st of over 34,000 to the needy white and colored on the mainland of the State, from Charleston to Savannah. No applicant unless detected in absolute imposition, and this after having been repeatedly served with all he needed for the time, has ever been declined. Our thirty thousand Sea Islanders have received their weekly rations of food, they have been taught to distribute their own clothing, making official report, and have done it well. They are a well clothed people; and over 20,000 garments have gone to the mainland. Thousands of little homes have been rebuilt or repaired, and are occupied. Over 245 miles of ditches have been made, reclaiming and improving many thousands of acres of land; nearly five tons of garden seeds, producing all varieties of vegetables in their well fenced gardens of from a quarter of an acre to one acre and more for each family; with 800 bushels of peas and beans, have been provided. These seeds have been distributed on the islands and to every applicant from the mainland; 1,000 bushels of Irish potato seed, 400 bushels of which went to the mainland; 1,800 bushels of seed corn, 800 bushels of this distributed on the mainland. These provisions, together with a

revival of the phosphate industries, the fish in the rivers, and their boats in repair, have served to make the 30,000 Sea Islanders, whom we were asked to take charge of nine months ago, a prosperous and self-helping people. They know this and realize they can take care of themselves, and we cannot but regard any attempt at throwing them again upon the charities of the outside world as demoralizing, misleading, and fatal to them, as a self supporting and independent class of industrial people, and a matter which should concern the State whose wards they are.

Her report should be supplemented by a statement of the Beaufort, S. C., Relief Committee composed of the leading citizens of that city:

. . . The undersigned, citizens of Beaufort, who have been associated with the work of the Red Cross since its advent in our midst, feel impelled by a sense of duty, and in simple justice to an organization which came to our relief at a time when their advent was regarded as a most fortunate event, to say, that we have been deeply impressed with the integrity, economy, impartiality, and unswerving devotion to duty of that organization under the most trying circumstances and over a field that extended almost one hundred and fifty miles along the coast, among numerous islands, distant and inaccessible, and at a time when the country was in such financial and industrial throes as to tax the resources of each community to provide for its own poor, and in consequence whereof comparatively very little means were obtained wherewith to administer to the starving thousands. Viewing the situation from that standpoint, Miss Barton at once perceived the necessity of confining her work to a limited territory commensurate with the means at her disposal, and make the "mainland" the line of demarkation and concluded, as a matter of necessity, to confine her labors to the Sea Islands, that being the territory devastated by storm and inundation, and the one over which she was invited to take charge and for whose relief the moneys sent her were intended by the donors. Notwithstanding this, the system adopted has never been strictly

adhered to and thousands of persons, white and colored, residing on the mainland have been helped.

In the kindness of her heart, throbbing with anxiety for the amelioration of the suffering and destitute with which we have been surrounded, no one possibly regrets with keener pangs of disappointment than Miss Barton that she was not able to extend her field of usefulness even beyond the present laborious one and gather under her benevolent care every destitute person, white and colored, far and near, who had even a semblance of claim as a storm sufferer.

Being impressed with the need of its people, white and colored, on the mainland to a greater extent than the means at her command would relieve, Miss Barton sent the following letter to Governor Tillman under date of December 16, 1893:

“We have been awaiting your legislative committee with considerable anxiety as this field, ever an exceedingly hard and perplexing one, has been made doubly difficult, owing to the great number of appeals from the mainland. Delegations, committees, and single petitioners swarm around us in such vast numbers that, added to our island wards, well nigh deadlocks our relief work. We are overpowered by importunate and destitute people and our funds are far too small to relieve the multitude, so that if we are not speedily relieved our supply will be entirely exhausted. You will remember, Governor, that we were invited to take charge of the relief of the Sea Islands, and that we did not accept the great responsibility for weeks because we were apprehensive that we, veterans though we were, could not successfully cope with the difficulties, owing to the depressed condition of the country; the many demands that had been, and were being made on the pocketbooks of the great-hearted people, as well as the fact that there were many thousands of helpless ones on the islands who would have to be cared for, not weeks but months.

“We made our estimates based upon investigation and finally accepted, when lo, a multitude that we were unprepared for sweeps down upon us from the mainland and we are overwhelmed. We ask you, Governor, to relieve us of this

additional burden in some way, either by selecting a committee to take care of them or by placing a sufficient sum of money in our hands for their relief, defining the district exactly if possible. We will petition your State in this direction and sincerely trust you will give the memorial your hearty and earnest endorsement and support as you have every measure for the benefit of the people."

Two days later Governor Tillman sent the following message to the Legislature:

"... I transmit herewith a letter from Miss Clara Barton, President of the American National Red Cross Society which has in charge the distribution of the relief fund contributed for the Sea Island sufferers whose houses and crops were destroyed by the cyclone and storm of the 27th of last August. This noble lady and her co-workers have labored zealously in behalf of the homeless and destitute islanders, and she now appeals for help for another class, the people living on the mainland who are begging for relief.

"From my personal knowledge a considerable area in Colleton County was as seriously damaged as any of the islands, except possibly St Helena, and I would recommend such appropriation as in your wisdom you may see proper to make. Having failed to adopt my suggestion of having a special committee to investigate the matter you will have to rely on such information as can be furnished by the representatives in your bodies from the devastated district to help you. Etc.

B. S. TILLMAN, *Governor.*"

Notwithstanding the appeal and the message of the Governor the Legislature adjourned without taking any steps to investigate the condition of the sufferers or to provide a single cent for the relief of these their fellow citizens.

Upon closing up her labors in this field, we, on behalf of the thousands who have been so liberally benefited by her charitable work, tender to her and her staff of co-workers our most heartfelt and sincere thanks and high appreciation of the gratifying results of their labor.

In conclusion we deem it a pleasure to be enabled to place

upon record our confidence in the Red Cross, together with that of the thousands of others through the country who have preceded us, and who have had an equal opportunity with us to observe the workings of this organization and be imbued, as we have, with its efficiency and availability promptly to meet any emergency upon which it may be called to administer, and to affirm how well founded is the confidence reposed in the American National Red Cross.

G. HOLMES, *Mayor*  
WM. H. LOCKWOOD  
CHAS. E. DANNER  
ROBERT SMALLS  
GEO. W. FORD  
N. CHRISTENSEN  
GEORGE WATERHOUSE  
DUNCAN C. WILSON  
J. J. DALE  
L. A. BEARDSLEE, *Commodore U. S. N.*

Clara Barton also visited Charleston, in 1886, after the destructive earthquake. At that time her call on Red Cross societies and the public (through the press) brought much needed supplies to be distributed by local committees. In behalf of the Red Cross she donated five hundred dollars to charitable institutions. The relief work being well organized under Mayor Courtney, her personal services were not needed.

On May 28, 1904, the *Southern Reporter* of Charleston published the following editorial: "We of South Carolina can never forget Miss Barton's contribution to the storm-wrecked people on our desolated sea coast after the fearful tempest of 1893. She came as an angel of mercy and those deeds of mercy are indelibly engraved on our hearts. With uncovered heads and with profound deference we bow to the blessed name of CLARA BARTON."

RELIEF WORK IN ARMENIA.

Clara Barton's diplomacy served her well in securing from the Sublime Porte permission to send relief to the sufferers from Kurdish atrocities in Armenia.

During the summer of 1895 reports from missionaries and travellers had touched the sympathetic American heart and the demand was made that supplies be sent to Armenia. As the representative of the American Red Cross, Clara Barton was the logical messenger, Turkey being a signatory of the Convention of Geneva, but the Turkish minister at Washington refused a permit. Not deterred by this she, accompanied by assistants with funds, and promises, sailed for Constantinople by the way of London.

Her interview with Tewfik Pasha, prime minister, to whom she was introduced by Hon. A. W. Terrell, United States Minister, as told by herself is interesting:

To those conversant with the personages connected with Turkish affairs, I need not say that Tewfik Pasha is probably the foremost man of the government; a manly man, with a kind, fine face, and genial, polished manners. Educated abroad, with advanced views on general subjects, he impresses one as a man who would sanction no wrong it was in his power to avert.

We were received at the Department of State in an uninterrupted interview lasting over an hour. As this was the main interview and the base of all our work, it is perhaps proper that I give it somewhat in detail. Mr Terrell's introduction was most appropriate and well expressed, bearing with strong emphasis upon the suffering condition of the people of the interior in consequence of the massacres, and the great sympathy of the people of America; their intense desire to help them, the heartfelt interest in their missionaries whose burdens were greater than they ought to bear, and the desire to aid *them*;

and that for all these reasons we had been asked to come; that our objects were purely humanitarian, having neither political, racial, nor religious bearing; that as the head of the organization thus represented I *could* have no other ideas, and it was the privilege of putting those ideas into practice, and the protection required meanwhile, that the people of America, through him and through me, were asking.

The Pasha listened most attentively to the speech of Mr. Terrell, thanked him, and replied that this was well understood; that he knew the Red Cross and its president, and turning to me, repeated; "We know you, Miss Barton; have long known you and your work. We would like to hear your plans for relief and what you desire." I proceeded to state them, bearing fully upon the fact that the condition to which the people of the interior of Asia Minor had been reduced by recent events, had aroused the sympathy of the entire American people, until they asked, almost to the extent of a demand, that assistance from them should be allowed to go directly to these sufferers, hundreds of whom had friends and relatives in America—a fact which naturally strengthened both the interest and the demand; that it was at the request of our people, *en masse*, that I and a few assistants had come; that our object would be, to use the funds ourselves among those needing it, where ever they were found, in helping them to resume their former positions and avocations, thus relieving them from continued distress, the State from the burden of providing for them, and other nations and people from a torrent of sympathy which was both hard to endure and unwholesome in its effects; that I had brought skilled agents, practical and experienced farmers, whose first efforts would be to get the people back to their deserted fields and provide them with farming implements and material wherewith to put in summer crops, and thus enable them to feed themselves. These would include plows, hoes, spades, seed corn, wheat, and later, sickles, scythes, etc, for harvesting, with which to save the miles of autumn grain we had heard of as growing on the great plains, already in the ground before the trouble; also to provide for

them such cattle and other animals as it would be possible to purchase or to recover; that if some such thing were not done before another winter, unless we had been greatly misinformed, the suffering there would shock the entire civilized world. None of us knew from personal observation, as yet, the full need of assistance, but had reason to believe it very great. That if my agents were permitted to go, such need as they found they would be prompt to relieve. On the other hand, if they did not find the need existing there, none would leave the field so gladly as they. There would be no respecting of persons; humanity alone would be their guide. "We have," I added, "brought only ourselves, no correspondent has accompanied us, and we shall have none, and shall not go home to write a book about Turkey. We are not here for that. Nothing shall be done in any concealed manner. All despatches which we send will go openly through your own telegraph, and I shall be glad if all we shall write could be seen by your government. I cannot of course say what its character will be, but I can vouch for its truth, fairness and integrity, and for the conduct of every leading man who shall be sent. I shall never counsel nor permit a sly or underhand action with your government, and you will pardon me, Pasha if I say that I shall expect the same treatment in return—such as I give I shall expect to receive."

Almost without a breath he replied; "And you shall have it. We honor your position, and your wishes will be respected. Such aid and protection as we are able to, we shall render." I then asked if it were necessary for me to see other officials. "No," he replied, "I speak for my government." and with cordial good wishes our interview closed.

I never spoke personally with this gentleman again; all further business being officially transacted through the officers of our Legation. Yet I can truly say, as I have said of our matchless band of missionary workers, that here commenced an acquaintance which proved invaluable, and here were given pledges of mutual faith, of which not a word was ever broken or invalidated on either side, and to which I owe what we were able to do through all Asia Minor. It is to the strong escorts



ordered from the Sublime Porte for our expeditions and men, that I owe the fact that they all came back to me, and that I bring them home to you, tired and worn, but saved and useful still. Dr. Hubbell and the leaders of the expeditions tell us they were never, even for a portion of a day, without an escort for protection, and this at the expense of the Turkish government, and that without this protection they must not and could not have proceeded.

Although the American people by their violent denunciations of Turkish methods made her position extremely delicate, Clara Barton so conducted her business as never to be subjected to the slightest disrespect in the Turkish country. Four expeditions were sent hundreds of miles into the interior, from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea, and returned in safety. Medicines for the stricken and supplies for rehabilitating the distressed Armenians in their homes were purchased and distributed to the amount of \$116,000. All the expense of the expedition and distribution was met out of Red Cross special funds. Clara Barton with her secretary remained at Constantinople for six months directing, supplying, and corresponding, working day and night over details. This must certainly be classed as a wonderful adventure skilfully and heroically conducted.

Prince Guy de Lusignan, Patriarch of Armenia, conferred upon Clara Barton the decoration of the Royal Order of Melusine, which is described officially as follows:

Brevet of Chevalier of the Royal Order of Melusine, founded in 1186, by Sibelle, Queen and spouse of King Guy of Jerusalem, and reinstituted several years since by Marie, Princess of Lusignan. The order is conferred for humanitarian, scientific, and other services of distinction, but especially when such services are rendered to the House of Lusignan, and

particularly to the Armenian nation. The Order is worn by a number of reigning sovereigns, and is highly prized by the recipients because of its rare bestowal and its beauty. This decoration is bestowed by His Royal Highness, Guy of Lusignan, Prince of Jerusalem, Cyprus, and Armenia.

The Sultan of Turkey, also, despite the hostile attitude of the American press, awarded Clara Barton the decoration of the Shefaket, his letter transmitting the decoration through the State Department containing these words:

As Miss Barton, American citizen, possesses many great and distinguished qualities and as recompense is due her, I am pleased therefore to accord her the second class of my decorations of Shefaket.

This Order is bestowed upon those who have rendered signal service in humanitarian work.

Minister Terrell's appreciation of her services in Armenia is shown in the following letter:

AUSTIN, TEX. Dec. 31st 1909.

*My Dear Miss Clara Barton,*

Your welcome letter was read on my return some time after an absence of several weeks. It conveyed to me the pleasing reflection that I was not forgotten.

You referred in that letter to our interview with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, when I was trying to *open the door* for you to take relief to the destitute Armenians. Your letter was written on the 14th inst. On the 22d (six days afterwards) I, while addressing the directors of the "New York Woman's Hospital," and the wealthy ladies who patronize that hospital, spoke of that *same interview* at length. It was a strange co-incidence. Amongst other things I told that audience, that when we were returning from the Sublime Porte and crossing the bridge over the Golden Horn as the sun was shining low in the western sky and the cold blast blowing from the Bosphorus—I asked you how you could pursue so strenu-

ous a life, and if you did not grow weary? And then came your answer, when you told me that you sometimes grew so weary, that you felt like placing your cheek on the bosom of the earth, and thus fading into the unknown; but then came the thought that suffering humanity needed you, and that thought cheered and sustained you—I can never forget it.

. . . . .  
What a grand consolation will be yours when you leave this transitory existence; the reflection that your life has been devoted to alleviating the pangs of suffering humanity will some day sweeten the death pang and gild with rosy light the opening visions of the future.

. . . . .  
I cherish the hope that we will meet again. If fate decree otherwise the memory of my pleasant relations with you will always be cherished, and I will esteem it among the most fortunate events of my life that I knew you. May God bless and long preserve you.

Truly your friend  
A. W. TERRELL

#### THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

It has lately been stated that the existing conflict in Europe has afforded the first war field for the American Red Cross. There was an unpleasantness in Cuba in 1898 that cost the United States many fine men and much treasure. Knowing Clara Barton, it is needless to state that our Red Cross was early known to Cubans and Spaniards, as well as to Americans. In fact she received testimonials and decorations from the Cortes of Spain and the Spanish authorities in Cuba. Relief was first taken to the reconcentrado camps, then, when war had been declared, to our soldiers at the front. The following papers will partly tell the tale officially:

EXECUTIVE MANSION

WASHINGTON

February 4, 1898.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The bearer, Miss Clara Barton, President of the American National Red Cross, and Delegate of the United States of America Vienna, 1897, of Washington, D. C., is about to proceed to Cuba to assist in the relief of the unfortunate people there. Miss Barton's well known ability, her long devotion to the noble work of extending relief to the needy and suffering in different lands, as well as her high character as a woman, commend her to the highest consideration and good will of all people.

I bespeak for Miss Barton, wherever her mission may take her, such assistance and encouragement, as she may need in prosecuting the work to which she has devotedly given so much time and service.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY

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WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, June 6, 1898.

CLARA BARTON, *President*:

The tender of the services of the American National Red Cross, made to this Department, through the Department of State, under date of May 25, 1898, for medical and hospital work as auxiliary to the hospital service of the Army of the United States, is accepted; all representatives and employes of said organization to be subject to orders according to the rules and discipline of war, as provided by the 63d Article of War.

Very respectfully.

R A ALGER,  
Secretary of War.

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From Senate proceedings, 2d session, 55th Congress,  
1898, pages 2916-17 and 3129-30.

MR PROCTOR: Mr President, more importance seems to be attached by others to my recent visit to Cuba than I have given it and it has been suggested that I make a public statement of what I saw and how the situation impressed me. . . .

Miss Barton needs no endorsement from me. I had known and esteemed her for many years, but had not half appreciated her capability and devotion to her work. I especially looked into her business methods, fearing that here would be the greatest danger of mistake, that there might be want of system and waste and extravagance, but found she could teach me on those points. I visited the warehouse where the supplies were received and distributed, saw the method of checking; visited the hospitals established or organized and supplied by her; saw the food distribution in several cities and towns, and every thing seems to me to be conducted in the best manner possible. The ample fine warehouse in Habana, owned by a Cuban firm, is given, with a gang of laborers free of charge to unload and re-ship supplies.

The children's hospital in Habana, a very large fine private residence, is hired at a cost of less than \$100 per month, not a fifth of what it would command in this city. It is under the admirable management of Mrs Dr. Lesser of New York, a German lady and trained nurse. I saw the rapid improvement of the first children taken there. All Miss Barton's assistants seem excellently fitted for their duties. In short I saw nothing to criticise, but every thing to commend. The American people may be assured that their bounty will reach the sufferers with the least possible cost and in the best manner in every respect.

MR GALLINGER: In my investigations I visited the orphanage under the care of that sainted woman, Clara Barton, who is being ably assisted by Dr A. M. Lesser, Surgeon-in-chief of the Red Cross Hospital in New York and his accomplished wife. It was also my great privilege to meet there Mr Louis Klopsch, proprietor of the Christian Herald, under whose efforts the money has been raised to carry on Miss Barton's Heaven-inspired work. . . . I wish I could command lan-

guage eloquent enough to pay a just tribute to Clara Barton, the guardian angel of oppressed, suffering humanity. More than seventy years of age, when the cry came from far-off Armenia she was soon in that stricken land carrying the ministrations of the gospel and distributing her benefactions under the aegis of the Society of the Red Cross. More than three-score and ten years of age, she has again responded to the Macedonian cry and is in Cuba relieving suffering and sorrow—a very angel of mercy and of human love and sympathy.—*God bless Clara Barton.*

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Clara Barton's chief assistant in Cuba describes vividly her work on that island before and during the war.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA. Oct. 7, 1916.

. . . I met Clara Barton through my uncle, General J. J. Elwell, whose medallion of bronze is in the Soldiers Monument in the public square, Cleveland, Ohio, who had been intimately acquainted with her during the Civil War.

Personally recommended to President McKinley by Miss Barton, I was appointed by the State Department to report immediately to General Fitzhugh Lee, U. S. Consul General at Havana, Cuba, as his aid in the distribution of vast stores of provisions accumulating in Havana warehouses forwarded by the Cuban Relief Committee of New York. In the interest of the Red Cross, and as the representative of the Cuban Relief Committee, Miss Barton was prepared to depart for Havana, so we made the journey together. On our arrival in Havana I reported to General Lee and was made his distributing agent. The General slapped me on the back and said in his hearty manner, "Elwell, I am glad to see you, I was nearly crazy over this business."

After General Lee had paid his respects to Miss Barton the three of us visited the warehouses where the Cuban Relief supplies were stored. There were thousands of tons of merchandise stacked mountain high. The flour, rice, and heavy

groceries were in sight; but the thousands of boxes of fancy groceries and barrels packed by the good people of the United States, were in a hopeless jumble. Miss Barton's eyes flashed when she realized the situation: "General," she said, "I think my work is cut out for awhile." "Oh, Miss Barton, *will* you help us?" said General Lee, "we need your veteran assistance so badly." "Of course I will," said Miss Barton.

Immediately we cut off despatch of *all* outgoing goods. A stream of drays were leaving the warehouse heavily loaded handled by well meaning Cubans directed by an inexperienced committee. At Miss Barton's suggestion we immediately locked the warehouses, gathered a staff of fifty helpers, and working continuously night and day for forty-eight hours, made a complete invoice.

The variety of donations subscribed by the people was unique. We found hundreds of barrels and boxes of clothing and groceries, many mixed with perhaps a peck of rotten potatoes or other perishable vegetables in the center of the package. Much of the merchandise was valuable, such as drugs, medicines, fancy groceries, and wines. Scattered thro' this bulk of merchandise we found, by measurement, more than a ton of quinine. As you know, these supplies were virtually donated for Cuban reconcentrados, namely, the families of Cubans fighting in the country districts. These miserable people were penned up in towns and villages controlled by Spanish troops and were being allowed to slowly starve to death. Even in the city of Havana no serious provision had been made to feed the starving reconcentrados. Always together, Miss Barton and myself, scoured the western part of Cuba from Pinos del Rio to Cienfuegos, Santa Clara, and Sagua la Grande, including all the towns and villages.

Soon Miss Barton had a staff of her veteran Red Cross workers and we all worked together in a common cause. We established in exquisitely sanitary order the horrible hospitals that we found in the towns and villages. We changed the "hell-and-repeat" conditions of swollen, starving despair to hope and cleanliness and order.

I will describe only one expedition as a fair sample of how

Clara Barton worked for the reconcentrados before she formally opened up her tremendous Red Cross campaign in Cuba. We learned that the village of Jaruco was in a starving condition. I loaded provisions, including food, clothing, medicines, and equipment sufficient for a village hospital. Before daylight next morning Miss Barton, a doctor, two trained nurses, and I crossed the ferry and boarded the train for Jaruco. The railroad company allowed us to carry our provisions and hospital stores by the passenger train. When we arrived at Jaruco we found awaiting us at the railway station the mayor, the priest, and all the principal dignitaries of the town. We were taken to the mayor's house where an elaborate lunch was served. Miss Barton whispered in my ear, "My boy, this will not do; it is taking up too much time." We ate a few bites and Miss Barton made one of her perfect little speeches and smoothly and diplomatically we got away in less than a half hour. We started up the hill to the quarter laid off for the reconcentrados, who were established in about a hundred dilapidated, filthy tents and miserable shanties. There was a corpse in the first tent, the face covered with a dirty cloth. The other occupants were sour with dirt, their legs, arms and abdomens swollen from starvation. We found several more dead bodies and many more beyond help, and all the rest dirty, ill, and absolutely helpless. Miss Barton and I were with the alcalde and the priest, followed by the whole village. She asked the alcalde if they had a hospital. He replied, "No, not one of any account." A little boy touched me on the arm, saying: "Senor, we have a hospital on the other side of the hill." I told Miss Barton what the boy had said, and led by him soon found it. It was a splendid building for a village, large patio, firm walls of brick, sound tile roof and floor. We came by the back way and as I entered the door I smelled a horrible stench. I begged Miss Barton to stand back until I had investigated, then I fortified myself with a big chew of tobacco and lighted a strong Havana cigar blowing the smoke thro' my nose as I entered. On a cot saturated with their human filth sat apparently two corpses, stark naked. They turned out to be half breed Chinamen. They both died the



next day. In the corner was the nastiness of where a person had lately died, apparently dragged away shortly before we came. There were probably ten patients scattered thro' the hospital, some of them very low. We found the front rooms slightly better than the rear. We found no food or drugs. At nine o'clock I started to clean up. By Miss Barton's direction the patients were laid outside, washed and dressed in pajamas. I found a limekiln and immediately employed every cart in town to haul lime and water. First we covered patio, floors, walls and ceilings with slaked lime using cartloads for the purpose and for whitewash. Next we washed out the lime with water in abundance and finally finished with creoline, carbolic acid, and chloride of lime from our stores, ending with a coat of whitewash, mixed with disinfectants. I burned most of the furniture. To make a long story short, at five o'clock we had a strictly sanitary hospital full of clean patients with an efficient native doctor and six volunteer Cuban young ladies under the supervision of four trained nurses. By the next day's train we had finished furnishing and equipping the hospital and pronounced it O. K. We reached Havana late at night finishing our waiting mail at one A.M.

It was a strenuous life. How Miss Barton stood it I can not tell. Often when I was dead tired she seemed as fresh as ever. The only way it could be accounted for was the fact that any time when she had a few minutes for relaxation in the train, in a carriage, anywhere, she could drop off into a dead sleep. People thought it a sign of weakness. I knew it meant recuperation and strength. I lost twenty-five pounds in weight; but was hard as a rock. I ate ravenously at every opportunity. Miss Barton ate sparingly, scarcely ever tasting meat or strong food.

I write you all the above to show you how closely I observed Miss Barton both from a private as well as a business point of view.

It may be interesting to go a little farther with this letter beginning with the destruction of the *Maine*. We were sitting in the front room on the second floor of the Inglaterra Hotel busy with our mail when the war vessel *Maine* disaster occurred.

I came within a hair breadth's of being aboard her when it happened. Miss Barton, General Lee, and I were aboard the *Maine* the day before at a reception given by Captain Sigsbee. A friend had invited me to come aboard and mess with the officers the next evening. I was halfway down the stairway on my way aboard when a sack of mail arrived and a violent thunderstorm came up at the same time. I knew Miss Barton would work half the night on the mail; so, at the last moment I decided to remain to help her. As near as I can recollect about nine o'clock there was a terrible explosion which nearly jarred out the lights. We sprang to the balcony to see the sky aflame and the city in a panic. We thought the armory had blown up. We did not know for an hour that it was the *Maine*. At daylight I was at the scene of horror and a little later Miss Barton and I called at the palace on General Blanco, Governor of Cuba, who had been in his office since daylight.

General Blanco, who was a tall handsome man with a heavy white mustache and beard, gave Miss Barton his hand and said in broken English; "Miss Clara this is the beginning of the end. Before God, I knew nothing of this." His face was stern, the tears were coursing down his cheeks.

We went from the palace to the hospital, to which the victims of the explosion had been sent. We found help scarce, so we both volunteered. All my life I have been chicken-hearted at sight of human blood—would often faint at sight and smell of it, but on this occasion I found myself immune. It was hard, grim work, and several of our brave sailor boys died under our hands.

Finally the blockade was declared and we were ordered out of Cuba by decree from the U. S. Government. We sailed for Key West where we met the Red Cross steamer, *State of Texas* loaded with 1400 tons of stores. Miss Barton assumed charge of the steamer and formally appointed me a member of her staff.

We remained in Key West several weeks, then sailed for Tampa. We saw the train of the first U. S. regulars enter Tampa and the last Government transport leave for Daiquiri and Siboney, Cuba. I had lived many years in Santiago de

Cuba and vicinity, I knew every cow path in the neighborhood. Colonel Wagner called me to the war office at Tampa to help with Santiago war maps. I was offered a commission as Captain in the volunteer army to go to Cuba as a scout; but declined as I felt I was needed by Miss Barton. From Tampa we sailed direct to Siboney, arriving on the day of the first little skirmish at Las Guasimas. Then came the battles of Caney and San Juan hill, the bombardment of Santiago, and the sinking of the Spanish fleet. We found thousands of refugees in Firmeza and in the adjoining woods on the verge of starvation. We fed them from our Red Cross steamer at Siboney. The provisions were towed ashore at night by steam launches on small pontoons which we borrowed from the U. S. Government. The surf was so high in the day time we had to finish by dawn. The Cuban army furnished me with seventy-five soldiers to help haul the pontoons thro' the surf and handle the goods on shore. I appointed a major as "Capitoz." . . .

When peace was finally declared our steamer was allowed to enter Santiago Bay ahead of the war vessels and transports, and I happened to be the first civilian to step ashore in Santiago after the Spanish-American war. As our vessel steamed up to the dock I was hailed by Mr Mikelson, a prominent merchant and German vice-consul, "Hello, Elwell," he shouted, "have you anything to eat aboard?" I found he had established a large soup kitchen and had been feeding the hungry until all his supplies had been exhausted, then had come the bombardment and practically the entire population had fled to the country; the city looked like a "deserted village"; but when they learned that the U. S. army were inside they came swarming back by the thousands. Inside of two hours, using the Mikelson kitchen to its fullest capacity we had enough rich wholesome broth and soda crackers ready to feed ten thousand empty people. We repeated this program for several days until supplies from merchant ships and the army relieved the pressure.

Months passed before we fully finished the Red Cross work thro'out Cuba.

Before finishing this letter I wish to mention a fact that always impressed me. The really great people, such as the President of the United States, Senators, Generals of our army, Admirals of our navy, Governors, Presidents of our railroad systems, and thorough-breds generally, always treated Clara Barton as a superior person to themselves, as one from whom they might ask and take advice. No one knows better than I the purity of Miss Barton's character. . . .

J. K. ELWELL.

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*From Clara Barton's Report.*

All effort was made to hold our ship (*State of Texas*) free from suspicion. The process of reasoning leading to the conclusion that a solid cargo, packed in tight boxes in the hold of a ship, anchored at sea, could become infected in a day from the land or a passing individual, is indeed, an intricate process; but we had some experience in this direction, as for instance, Capt. McCalla in his repeated humane attempts to feed the refugees around Guantanamo had called again for a hundred thousand rations, saying that if we could bring them to him soon, he could get them to the thousands starving in the woods. We lost no time, but got the food out and started with it in the night. On reaching Guantanamo we were met at a distance out and called to, asking if any one on our ship had been at Siboney within four days, if so, our supplies could not be received, so we took them away, leaving the starving to perish.

On Friday morning the constant recurring news of the surrender of Santiago was so well established that we drew anchor and came up to the flagship and the following letter was addressed to Admiral Sampson:

*“Admiral Sampson:—*It is not necessary for me to explain to you my errand, nor its necessity; both your good head and heart divine it more clearly than any words of mine can represent. I send this to you by one of our men, who can tell you all you wish to know. Mr Elwell has resided and done mercantile and shipping business in Santiago for the last

seven years; is favorably known to all its people; has in his possession the keys to the best warehouses and residences in the city, to which he is bidden welcome by the owners. He is the person appointed four months ago to help distribute this food, and did so with me until the blockade. There seems to be nothing in the way of our getting this 1400 tons of food into a Santiago warehouse and getting it intelligently to the thousands who *need* and *own* it. I have twenty good helpers with me. The New York Committee is clamoring for the discharge of the *State of Texas*, which has been raised to \$400 a day.

"If there is still more explanation needed, I pray you, Admiral, let me see you.

"Respectfully and cordially,

"CLARA BARTON."

This was immediately responded to by Captain Chadwick, who came on board, assuring me that our place was at Santiago—as quickly as we could be gotten there.

On Saturday, the 16th, feeling that it might still be possible to take supplies to Guantanamo, requested by Captain Mc Calla, a letter was addressed as follows:

"*Captain*:—If there is a possibility of going to Santiago before tomorrow morning, please let me know, and we will hold just where we are and wait. If there is *no* possibility of this, we could run down to Guantanamo and land Captain Mc Calla's 100,000 rations in the evening and be back here tomorrow morning. Will you please direct me.

"Yours faithfully, CLARA BARTON."

(To Capt. Chadwick.)

*U. S. Flagship New York*

July 17, 1898.

"*Dear Miss Barton*:—We are now engaged in taking up mines, just so soon as it is safe to go in your ship will go. If you wish, you can anchor near us, and send anything up by boats, or, if we could get lighters, drawing less than eight feet, food may be sent by the lighters, but it is not yet possible for

the ship to go in. There are four 'contact' mines and four what are known as 'observation' mines, still down.

Yours very truly.

F. E. CHADWICK.

It was after this that we turned back again and steamed to Guantanamo to unload our supplies at night and return the next morning.

These were anxious days. While the world outside was making war history, we thought of little beyond the terrible needs about us—if Santiago had any people left, they must be in sore distress, and El Caney—terrible El Caney—with its thirty thousand homeless, perishing sufferers, how could they be reached?

On returning from our fruitless journey to Guantanamo we stopped at Siboney only long enough to get our despatches, then ran down directly in front of Santiago and lay with the fleet. A personal call from Admiral Schley, Captain Cook, and other officers served to show the interest and good will of those about us. Between three and four o'clock in the afternoon a small Spanish steamer—which had been among the captures of Santiago—ran alongside and informed us that an officer desired to come aboard. It proved to Lieutenant Capehart, of the flagship, who brought word from Admiral Sampson that if we would come alongside the *New York*, he would put a pilot on board. This was done and we moved on through waters we had never traversed—past Morro Castle, long, low, silent and grim—past the Spanish wrecks on the right—past the *Merrimac* in the channel, which Hobson had left. We began to realize that we were alone, of all the ships about the harbor there were none with us. The stillness of the Sabbath was over all. The gulls sailed and flapped and dipped about us. The lowering summer sun shot long golden rays athwart the green hills on either side, and tinged the waters calm and still. The silence grew oppressive as we glided along with scarcely a ripple. We saw on the right as the only moving thing a long slim boat or yacht dart out from among the bushes and steal its way up half hidden in the shadows. Suddenly it

was overtaken by either message or messenger, and like a colared hound glided back as if it had never been. Leaning on the rail half lost in reverie over the strange quiet beauty of the scene, the thought suddenly burst upon me: Are we really going into Santiago—and alone? Are we not to be run out and wait aside and salute with dipping colors while the great battleships come up with music and banners and lead the way? As far as the eye could reach no ship was in sight. Was this to remain so? Could it be possible that the commander who had captured a city declined to be the first to enter—that he would hold back his flag ship and himself and send forward and first a cargo of food on a plain ship, under direction of a woman? Did our commands, military or naval, hold men great enough of soul for such action? It must be true—for the spires of Santiago rise before us, and turning to the score of companions beside me I asked, “Is there anyone here who will lead the doxology?” In an instant the full rich voice of Enola Gardner rang out: “Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.” By that time the chorus was full, and the tears on many a face told more plainly than words how genuine was that praise, and when in response to a second suggestion “My Country, ’Tis of Thee” swelled out on the evening air in the farewell rays of the setting sun, the *State of Texas* was nearing the dock, and quietly dropping her anchors she lay there in undisputed possession of the city of Santiago.

The city was literally without food. In order to clear it for defence, its inhabitants had been ordered out, ten days before, to El Caney, a small town of some five hundred people, where it was said thirty thousand were gathered, without food, shelter, or place of rest. Among these were the old time residents—the wealthy and the best people of Santiago. The British consul, Mr Ramsden, and his family were of them, and the care and hardship of that terrible camp cost his life. A message from the headquarters of General Shafter, telegraphed us even after leaving Siboney, said: “The death rate at El Caney is terrible. Can you send food?”

Word went back to send the refugees at once back to Santi-

ago—we were there and could feed them—that the *State of Texas* had still on board twelve hundred tons of supplies sent for the reconcentrados. That day poured in upon us all that had strength to make the journey, of the thirty thousand starving wrecks of El Caney. If there were any at night who had not received food, no one knew it.

Until ten o'clock on Monday the 18th we saw no sign of life on the waters of the bay—neither sail, steam, nor boat—but suddenly word passed down from the watch on deck that a ship was sighted. Slowly it came in view—large, fine, full-masted—and orders went to salute when it should pass. At length here was something to which we could pay deference. The whistles were held, the flag was ready for action, ropes straight and without tangle—all stood breathless—but she does not pass, and seems to be standing in. In a moment more a stout sailor voice calls out: "Throw us a rope," and here, without salute, whistle, or bell, came and fastened to the stern of our boat this glittering and masted steamship from whose decks below Admirals Sampson and Schley and their respective staffs shouted up their familiar greetings to us. The day was spent with us till four o'clock in the afternoon and when about to leave and the admiral was asked what orders or directions he had for us, the reply was, "You need no directions from me, but if anyone troubles you, let me know."

Extract from report of Lieutenant-Colonel B. F. Pope, Chief Surgeon, Fifth Army Corps, page 786, Annual Report War Dept., 1898, battles of San Juan, El Caney, and Santiago de Cuba:

In Major Wood's hospital over 1,000 wounded men were received within three days, and in spite of lack of shelter and the subsequent exposure to intense heat and drenching rains, the mortality rate was less than 7 per cent. . . .

Early after the battle the hospital was honored by the presence of Miss Clara Barton and her staff of four assistants, who immediately set up their tents and cooking apparatus and labored incessantly, day and night, in the broiling sun and



drenching rain, preparing sick food for the wounded and serving it to them, and in a thousand other ways giving the help that the Red Cross Society brings.

Extract from report of Major Louis A. LeGarde, Surgeon, U. S. A., on the operation of "Base Hospital" at Siboney, Cuba, pages 800-801, Annual Report, War Dept., 1898:

The landing of the troops was done in such a precipitate manner that ammunition and the bare ration of the soldier seemed by military necessity to be the first consideration. It was at this time that I remembered the offer of the honorable Clara Barton, President of the American Red Cross Association, through the corps surgeon, to assist us in any way she could with supplies and help from the *State of Texas*, which lay at anchor near our landing. I desire to testify to the loyal manner in which this promise was kept.

While the wounded for four days kept crowding into our hospital faster than large details of men could provide them with canvas shelter, Miss Barton's assistants worked unremittingly with us to relieve the pangs of suffering humanity. They furnished us, with willing hearts and willing hands, delicacies like gruel, malted milk, ice, soups, etc., when military necessity prevented us from getting our own. As the wounded crowded upon us in numbers far beyond anything we had reason to anticipate, they came forward with cots, blankets, and other articles for the comfort of the unfortunates. For such help at a moment of supreme need, coming from people in no way connected with the military service, the deep sense of gratitude not only of the medical department but of the whole of the Fifth Corps, can not be conveyed by words.

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CHIEF SURGEON'S OFFICE  
HEADQRS. 1ST DIV. 5TH. CORPS.

July 14th 1898.

To

MISS CLARA BARTON,  
President American National Red Cross.

*My Dear Miss Barton;*

The great sense of obligation which I personally feel for your invaluable assistance in my work, my knowledge of your indefatigable efforts for the relief of distress and privations of our wounded, and my knowledge of the value of your aid in other fields where such aid is continually needed; prompt me at this time to recommend your removal, with such of your people as are not immune to yellow fever, to some other point where you may be useful without practically imprisoning your personnel and supplies.

We are now nearly surrounded by yellow fever, which is increasing and will probably continue to increase.

Again let me ask you to accept for myself and for each of the officers of the 1st Division Hospital, our profound gratitude for the able and efficient aid rendered to our hundreds of wounded at a time when Charity, in your broad exemplification of the term, helped many of our brave wounded on their way to again become useful citizens of our own Great Country.

Very respectfully

M. W. WOOD

*Major, Surgeon U. S. Army*  
*Chief Surgeon 1st Div. 5th Corps.*

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CAMP OF THE 16TH U. S. INFANTRY  
BEFORE SANTIAGO, CUBA  
July 25, 1898.

TO MISS CLARA BARTON,  
President, American Red Cross Society,  
Santiago De Cuba,

*Dear Madam:*

The Officers on behalf of the sick of this Regiment desire to express to you and your Society their profound thanks for the generous and timely aid offered us.

Only a personal visit and inspection could give an adequate idea of the extreme destitution to which we were reduced during the active investment of Santiago and up to July 24th. Without food, or transportation to convey the same, without tentage for our sick and wounded, drenched by rain and burned by a tropical sun, lying in mud day and night, our condition may be imagined but cannot be fully described.

At a time when from one hundred to one hundred and seventy-five were being reported sick and new cases multiplying by the score, you kindly responded to our request and supplied food suitable and convenient for wounded and feverish men. We wish you and your society to know that we are sincerely grateful for the assistance rendered.

With every expression of regard we remain,

Very Respectfully,

JNO. NEWTON, *Capt. 23d Inf.*

GEORGE H. PALMER, *Capt. 16th Infy.*

J. E. WOODWARD *2d Lt. 16th Inf.*

GUY G. PALMER, *2d Lt. 16th Infy.*

R. R. STEEDMAN, *1st Lieut 16th Infy.*

EDGAR RIDENOUR *2d Lieut 16th Infy.*

S. R. WHITALL, *Capt. 16th Infy.*

S. W. DUNNING *1st Lieut 16 Infantry*

W. H. COWLES *1st Lt 16 Infantry*

CHAS. P. GEORGE *1st Lt & Adjut 16th Inf.*

W. C. MCFARLAND, *Capt. 16 Inf.*

JOHN F. PRESTON, JR. *2nd Lieut & Actg Adjutant, 16th Inf.*

B. T. SIMMONS, *2d Lt. 16th Inf.*

E. C. CAREY *2d Lieut, 16th Inf.*

JAMES B. GOWEN *2nd Lieut. 16th Inf.*

I. ERWIN *2nd Lieut. 16th Infy.*

LEVEN C. ALLEN *Capt. 16th Inf.*

H. A. THEAKER *Col 16th Infy*

W. H. McLAUGHLIN *Major 16th Inf*

C. C. BATEMAN *Chaplain U S Army.*

From President McKinley's Message to Congress,  
December 5, 1898:

. . . In this connection it is a pleasure for me to mention in terms of cordial appreciation the timely and useful work of the American National Red Cross, both in relief measures preparatory to the campaigns, in sanitary assistance at several of the camps of assemblage, and later, under the able and experienced leadership of the president of the society, Miss Clara Barton, on the fields of battle and in the hospitals at the front in Cuba. Working in conjunction with the governmental authorities and under their sanction and approval, and with the enthusiastic cooperation of many patriotic women and societies in the various States, the Red Cross has fully maintained its already high reputation for intense earnestness and ability to exercise the noble purposes of its international organization, thus justifying the confidence and support which it has received at the hands of American people. To the members and officers of this society and all who aided them in philanthropic work the sincere and lasting gratitude of the soldiers and the public is due and is freely accorded.

On January 12, 1899, the United States Senate adopted a resolution thanking Miss Barton and the officers and agents of the American Red Cross for their humane and beneficent service to humanity in relieving the distress of the Armenians and other suffering persons in Turkey and in ministering to the suffering caused by pestilence in the United States and for the like ministration and relief given by them to both sides in the Spanish West Indies during the present war. (S. R. 203, 55th Cong., 3d sess., p. 601, Cong. Record.)

R. A. Alger's "The Spanish-American War," Harper & Brothers, page 436, says:

. . . In this connection I desire to testify to the work of the trained nurses and that noble band of women, who, under Miss Clara Barton and her Red Cross flag rendered such acts of tenderness and sweet mercy to the wounded and the dying, the

sick and the convalescent on the battlefield and in camp. Miss Barton, her corps of assistants, and the supplies on the Red Cross ship *Texas* were of inestimable assistance after the battle of San Juan.

Clara Barton had attained the summit; she was the foremost woman of the age; acclaimed by the great of her own country, honored by foreign nations, loved by her associates, she might hope to close her long career of service to humanity and anticipate an evening of peaceful rest. Alas, it was not so to be, her greatest trial awaited her.

A hint of impending trouble is found on page 134 of "Under the Red Cross, or a History of the Spanish-American War," by Henry M. Lathrop M.D. (edited by John R. Musick), published by F. B. Warner & Co., New York, 1898:

The Red Cross up to this time had been kept clear of political rings and uncontaminated. Miss Barton was the acknowledged chief in authority. The society had begun to win the most enviable reputation, it was growing to be a power, and already politicians who had hogged everything else from a cross roads post office to a foreign minister had begun to lay plans for displacing Miss Barton with the wife, niece, or daughter of a Washington politician. Miss Barton was probably not aware of their unholy schemes at this time. Perhaps even if she had been, it would not have disturbed the serenity of her countenance, for she was working for God and humanity.

#### GALVESTON RELIEF.

September 8, 1900, the beautiful city of Galveston was nearly swept away by a tidal wave; I was a terrified witness and sufferer. As soon as the relief train of supplies provided by the *New York World* could make the long journey Clara Barton appeared, ill and worn.

From her bed, to which she was confined for over a week, she organized relief out of the existing confusion and at once order prevailed. Very many families were without shelter; for such as were owners of city lots lumber was procured and soon devastated areas were dotted over with ochre-washed houses raised high on frail-appearing supports. These were recognized as "Red Cross houses." Clothing was wisely distributed and food supplied. On the mainland local committees were looking after the suffering under her direction. To a strawberry-raising locality thousands of plants were furnished in time for the spring crop. Nothing seemed to be overlooked by the Red Cross force.

Clara Barton remained in Galveston over two months. She was then in her seventy-ninth year, slight and frail in appearance, with a wearied carriage, but with a smile that still was ready and winning. This was her last great relief field. The appreciation of the people of Texas of this beautiful character is shown in touching resolutions.

The Central Relief Committee of Galveston on a most beautifully engrossed sheet thus expressed their gratitude:

WHEREAS, The people of Galveston have been the beneficiaries of the noble charity and experience relief of the American National Red Cross and the Central Relief Committee have had the invaluable counsel of Miss Clara Barton, President, and Mr Stephen E. Barton, Vice-President; therefore be it.

*Resolved*, That for ourselves we acknowledge the assistance and the inspiration of Miss Barton and Mr Barton in the perplexing duties to which we were called; that we regret their departure but realize that in the economy of their mission to the world they cannot remain with us longer.

*Resolved* That for our people who have found relief under the sheltering arm of the Red Cross and consolation in the overflowing love of its consecrated agents, we hereby express

the everlasting gratitude of a community which has been lifted out of its sorrows into the dawn of new hopes and out of its losses into the resolution of a new life.

*Resolved*, That we recommend to the world the great organization whose efficiency and tenderness have been demonstrated to us during the last two months, and we appeal to civilization for the maintenance of this surpassing institution, which knows no country but the desolate places and no class or race but stricken humanity, wherever it is found upon the globe.

*Resolved*, That we especially thank and render homage to the woman who is the life and spirit of the Red Cross. She who is the embodiment of the saving principle of laying down one's life for one's friend, whose friend is the friendless and whose charge is the stricken, and should be exalted above Queens and whose achievements are greater than the conquests of nations or the inventions of genius, and who is justly crowned in the evening of her life with the love and admiration of all humanity, MISS CLARA BARTON.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE.

House Concurrent Resolution, No. 8.

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

In behalf of the people of Texas, the legislature extends to the American National Red Cross Society, the most grateful acknowledgement for the relief extended through the Society to the sufferers in Texas by the storm of September 8, 1900, and especially does the Legislature thank Miss Clara Barton, President of the Society for her visit to the State and her personal supervision and direction of relief to those who were in need and in distress.

That the Governor be, and he is hereby, requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to Miss Clara Barton.

Approved February 1, 1901.

LAST YEARS WITH THE RED CROSS.

After her triumphs in Cuba it was not a difficult matter for Clara Barton to obtain the Federal Charter so desired for the Red Cross and so persistently sought. It was granted June 6, 1900. By it more power was given to an executive committee and a board of control established.

In the Congressional Record for May 15, 1900 (page 5573), we read that the House Committee on Foreign Relations added several names to the list of incorporators as an amendment to the bill under consideration:

“on page 3, sec. 1, line 8, after the word ‘Indiana’ insert, ‘George C. Boldt, Wm. T. Wardwell of N. Y., Daniel Hastings, J. Wilkes O’Neill of Pa., Thos. F. Walsh of Colo., John G. Sumner of Calif., Chas. C. Glover, S. W. Woodward, Elizabeth Kibbey, Mabel T. Boardman, Walter Wyman, S. J. Kimball, of the District of Columbia, Edward Love of Mich.’”

During the debate (page 5573), Mr. Gillette, the Chairman of the Committee, remarked:

“The Red Cross organization has been built up largely by the heroic work of Clara Barton.”

And on May 16, 1900 (page 5619):

“To me personally it seems only right that as Miss Clara Barton and her associates have won for this emblem in our country the honor which it has, so that whenever we speak of the Red Cross Association it stands for noble purposes and achievements—it seems to me only fair that it should be by law protected, and that they who have won for it the glory should have the full use of it.”



In the Senate, Mr. Money said:

"I desire myself to be absent for a month and I wish to have this bill put through while I am here. Miss Barton has made a special request of me that I should have it passed. Everybody knows her work, and when I mention the name of that lady, it is not only with respect but with reverence, for I myself have personally seen her work in foreign lands, in hospitals, and amidst scenes of suffering and distress." (56th Congress, p. 2019.)

In 1902 Clara Barton went to St. Petersburg as delegate from the United States to the International Conference of the Red Cross, where the Czar of Russia decorated her with the Order of the Red Cross. During her absence occurred the disaster of Mount Pelee. The dilatory action of the lately organized Board of Control of the American Red Cross, resulting in the first failure in all the twenty years of its existence, greatly annoyed her.

Clara Barton had a keen sense of humor; in repartee she was ready and apt. A commentator has said that this faculty for enjoyment of the ludicrous sustained her through the serious business of her long career. She had implicit confidence in her own judgment; nothing could swerve her from a course once decided upon. She was naturally impatient of dictation; controlled she would not be. She abhorred contention, she would neither dispute nor listen to a heated discussion of any question. During her long experience in business life she was never a party in any legal action; diplomatically all troubles were settled out of court.

She was easy and quiet in manner, never hurried nor flustered, always in command of her nerves and temper, and while perfectly fearless, she carefully guarded herself against any infringement of social

canons. For personal adornment she cared little, choosing green dresses in her youth and ornaments of bright red, for cheer, in her older years. She was extremely frugal, spending less and less upon herself as her income dwindled from inroads upon the principal for the upkeep of the Red Cross and charities.

Clara Barton, however, had one pronounced failing; she was never able to resist a plea for assistance; her heart, her home, her purse, were always open to the unfortunate. To her friends and relatives she was a veritable fairy god-mother, to the impecunious parasites that dogged her steps she always listened, with many unpleasant results. One experience of this kind entailed much trouble in the sequel. At Mt. Vernon, Ill., after the disastrous cyclone of 1888 she met a young man who was doing efficient relief work. She was much impressed by his seeming earnestness and ability. At Johnstown he again appeared as a volunteer assistant. During the press of office work in Washington, while the Russian Famine Relief funds were coming in, he was employed to assist the accountant, and had charge of the mail and banking. Miss Barton trusted him implicitly and became very fond of him. Later when her tried and true friends and co-workers in the society for years, Dr. and Mrs. Gardner, presented her in trust for the Red Cross a large tract of land in Indiana for the use of the society he was made manager. Money was advanced him for necessary improvements which he never made. Difficulties of a personal character arose between him and the donors, and the threats of a suit in the courts greatly distressed Miss Barton, who feared that the publicity attending this action would be a reflection upon the good name of the Red Cross.

Investigation of his management of the farm re-

vealed that instead of a stock farm with horses loaned by prominent horsemen, as he had represented to Miss Barton, he had a stable of racing horses and was absent the greater part of the time attending races at different fairs. County records disclose that the personal tax of this man for the two years following the Russian Relief amounted to \$1,840. Ten years after he was brought forward a perjured witness against his benefactress in an investigation of Red Cross methods by a committee appointed by Hon. Richard Olney,<sup>1</sup> Secretary of State under President Cleveland and counselor of the Society, by request of Miss Barton's friends. (Senator Proctor was the chairman of this Committee.) Appearances indicate that this man purloined money from not only the Russian but also from Johnstown Relief funds, later destroying account books now missing. Proof of his culpability, which was suspected when he was surprised in the act of copying Miss Barton's signature, is proved by cancelled bank checks still in existence, as well as in the large personal tax assessed against him.

In 1900 under the new Federal Charter Clara Barton

<sup>1</sup> RICHARD OLNEY  
710 Sears Building

BOSTON, 5 June, 1916.

MRS. CORRA BACON-FOSTER

The Marlborough,  
Washington, D. C.

*Dear Madam,*

I have always believed in Miss Barton's merits as a patriot and disinterested worker in aid of suffering humanity and particularly in the value of her services during the late Civil War. It cannot be true, I think, that she has ever done any thing to disentitle her to conspicuous recognition in the new Red Cross Building.

. . . . .

Very truly yours,  
RICHARD OLNEY

submitted her resignation as president; it was not accepted; instead she was elected president for life, disregarding her protest. Shortly afterwards dissensions arose, the first the society had ever known; coming after a half century of devoted service and sacrifice to her country and to humanity, this was a heart-crushing experience for her. She wrote in February, 1903:

All of this kind of life is so distasteful to me that I cannot carry it much longer. It will in some way undermine my health. If I could without ruin to myself, the Red Cross, and the dissatisfaction of those who try to stand by me, give it all up, I would be so glad to do so, but I should disappoint all friends and gratify all enemies; ought I do this? I who have struggled so hard all these years to keep the Red Cross peaceable, to have no gossip—have borne all things for this end, and now to have its disruption spread over the world, is something so humiliating that I can scarcely take it in, or bear it. The Red Cross is in precarious hands and must be rescued by such persons as sign a protest, not one of whom ever went to a field or gave a dollar above fees, and half of whom never known as members until now they appear in protest against the management.

On May 14, 1904, she submitted her resignation:

*Gentlemen,*—It is now twenty-three years since by the express desire of President Garfield on the eve of his martyrdom I accepted the presidency of the organization over which you have the honor to preside and the duties of which you have the kindness to administer.

Until that moment the American Red Cross had no existence, it stood before the country an anomaly, its very name was unknown. There are those in your present body whose young manhood then received its first lessons, little dreaming of the vicissitudes that faith and faithlessness would lead them through.

Its first object and its "raison d'être" was to gain accession to the international treaty under which it exists; sec-

ondary, to fulfil the duties set forth in the charter which you sacredly hold. To this end it has struggled on—a strange ship in unknown waters, without chart, for it had no predecessors, buffeting with floating obstructions, often perplexed and uncertain, but never unheeding its compass, with its unerring needle steadily pointing to the relief of human suffering wherever found.

It were all too long to review its course, or recount its efforts and you do not need it. Its active fields of service are verging on the score. By degrees its name has become known and familiar to our people, and its work so in part. It has largely conducted the relief in our only foreign war. It has by its example enlarged the scope of the organized charities of the country and has brought us into practical relations with the humanitarian methods of other nations and made possible an interchange of beneficence. Although its growth may seem to have been slow, it is to be remembered that it is not a shrub or plant to shoot up in the summer and wither in the frosts; the Red Cross is a part of us, it has come to stay and like the sturdy oak, its spreading branches shall yet compass and shelter the relief of the nation.

With those forming its present board of management rests its guidance—a guidance which all may safely trust.

To the combined wisdom of the leaders of armies, of senators and judiciary, and the rich experience of trusted helpers is committed the charge of a quarter of a century.

It is a waste of time to remind you of the years and the occasions in which your weary president has sought to lay her weary burdens down. Year after year she has framed and offered her resignation to preceeding boards and committees. These have been resolutely met by appointments for life.

I can find no fitting words by which to express my appreciation and gratitude for the courtesy thus extended to me. I am poor even in thanks for such honored trust.

But once more and for all, most honored officers and friends, I tender my resignation as president of the American National Red Cross, which resignation being absolute calls only for acceptance.

By the laws governing your organization this resignation is made to your honored Board of Trustees and Executive Committee and it is an unspeakable joy to me that the toil-worn, weary mantle that drops from mine falls upon the shoulders of my vice president, the woman so cherished in our own country and honored and trusted in others. [Mrs. John A. Logan.]

It is a pride as well as a pleasure to hand to you an organization perfectly formed, thoroughly officered, with no debts and a sum of from \$12,000 to \$14,000 available to our treasury as a working fund.

This resignation was accepted at a special meeting of the organization on June 16, when, upon the motion of Mr. Simon Wolf, a committee of five was appointed by the trustees "to convey to Miss Barton the high sense of appreciation of the organization of her efforts for the Red Cross."

In the bill reincorporating the American Red Cross in 1905 (S. 5704, 58th 3d) the name of Clara Barton leads the list of incorporators. It was placed there without her knowledge by its author, Senator Proctor, who had been Chairman of the Red Cross Investigating Committee.

The following resolution, presented by Dr. Duchasoy, delegate from France, was adopted immediately after the presentation of the report of the delegate of the American Red Cross, at the Seventh International Conference of the Red Cross, London, 1907: "Le VII<sup>e</sup> Conférence adresse à Miss Clara Barton, qui nous regrettons de ne pas voir aujourd'hui parmi nous, le souvenir reconnaissant que nous lui conservons pour sa collaboration d'autrefois et pour les grands exemples qui elle a donné au vieux monde européen." [From the official proceedings of the Conference.]

Clara Barton, however, did not remain inactive, in

1905 she organized the "National First Aid Association" on the model of the British "St. John's Ambulance." It has been very successful. It carries her name in perpetuity as president. The acting president at present is Mrs. Harriette L. Reed, her old-time friend and co-laborer in the Red Cross.

Honored and loved, the remaining years of her life were quietly spent at Oxford and Glen Echo. On an April day of 1912 she passed away. All that is mortal reposes at Oxford under the Cross she served so devotedly, where from over the beautiful plain the setting sun is reflected by the white cross of the early Huguenots as it were a benediction from the great ideal of service to God upon the emblem of service to mankind.

The *International Bulletin* (quarterly) of the Societies of the Red Cross, published by the International Committee, Geneva (Switzerland), July, 1912, pays this tribute to our immortal American:

Au commencement d'avril, 1912, les journeaux nous ont appris la mort de Miss Clara Barton, la première femme qui se leva en Amérique pour faire entendre la voix de la charité sur les champs de bataille et qui implanta le Croix-Rouge aux Etats-Unis.

Déjà pendant la guerre civile en Amérique (1860-65) puis en France, lors de l'invasion en 1870-71, elle se consacra entièrement au soulagement des blessés. En récompense de ses services elle reçut de l'empereur Guillaume I<sup>er</sup> la croix de guerre, et le Grand duc de Bade lui conféra également une médaille.

Elle a écrit elle-même, dans un livre paru en 1898, à New-York, l'histoire de la fondation de la Croix-Rouge aux Etats-Unis en 1881, avant même que le gouvernement américain eût adhéré à la Convention de Genève de 1864. Son nom est indissolublement lié à toute cette période, où la Croix-Rouge commença à travailler non seulement en temps de

guerre, mais immédiatement en temps de paix, pour secourir les victimes des catastrophes et calamités plus fréquentes en Amérique que les guerres. Dès 1881, soit dès sa fondation, la Croix-Rouge, à l'instigation de Miss Barton, entra en lice pour travailler au soulagement des victimes de l'incendie du Michigan. Et dès lors il ne se passa guère d'événement où l'intervention charitable de la Croix-Rouge pût être utile, sans que Clara Barton ne prît la tête de l'œuvre de secours à organiser.

. . . [A two-page review of her services on the more important Red Cross relief fields, the decorations and honors conferred upon her, and the history of the American Red Cross administration up to 1904.]

Elle lui laissait un dépôt sacré, la réputation de la Croix-Rouge américaine, qu'il promettait de maintenir à la hauteur où elle l'avait placée elle-même.

Clara Barton vécut dès lors dans une retraite complète et dans le silence. Elle avait bien mérité de la patrie et de la Croix-Rouge et elle pouvait repasser dans sa vieillesse ses beaux états de service en faveur de l'œuvre à laquelle elle consacra toute sa vie. . . .

On Jan. 26, 1918, one month after reading this paper, Mrs. Bacon-Foster crossed to the Great Beyond.